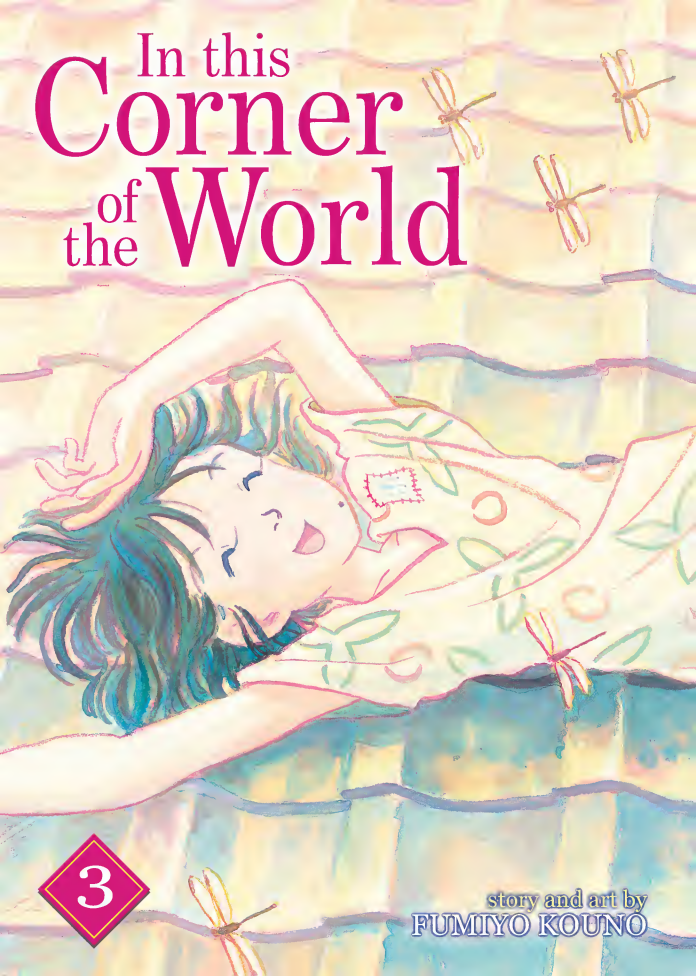


In this Corner of the World

A soft, painterly illustration of a young girl with vibrant green hair lying on her back. She is wearing a light-colored dress with green floral patterns and a small red square patch on the chest. Her eyes are closed, and she has a gentle smile. Her arms are raised above her head. The background consists of wavy, horizontal bands of yellow, orange, and blue, suggesting a sky or water. Several dragonflies are depicted in flight around her.

3

story and art by
FUMIYO KOUNO



In this Corner of the World 3

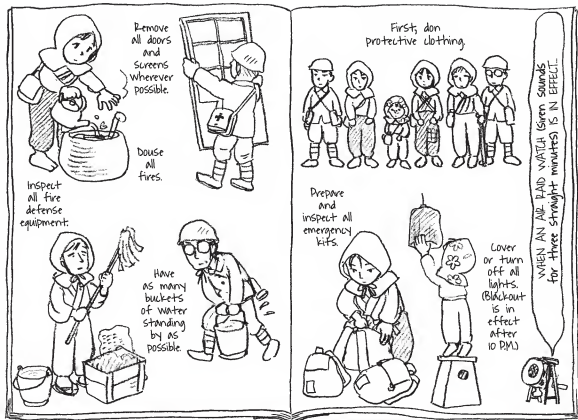
story and art by FUMIYO KOUNO

Translation by Adrienne Beck

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BRO

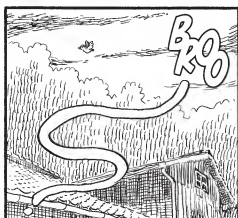
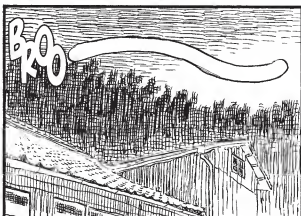
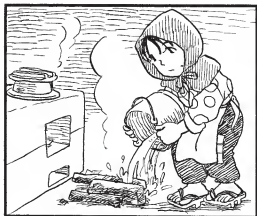
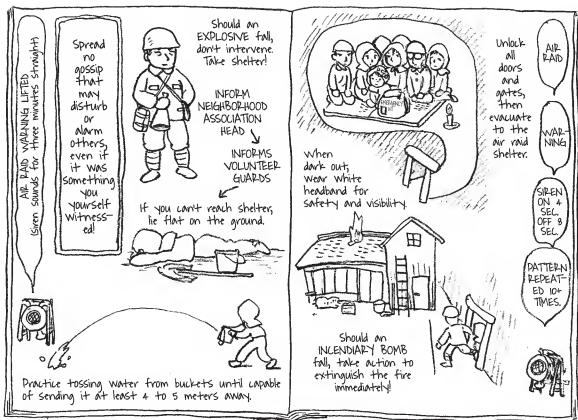
AH.

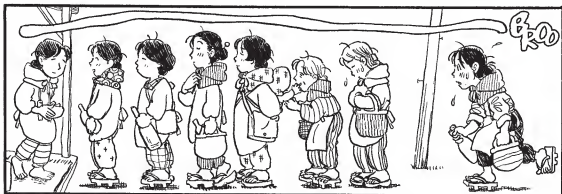
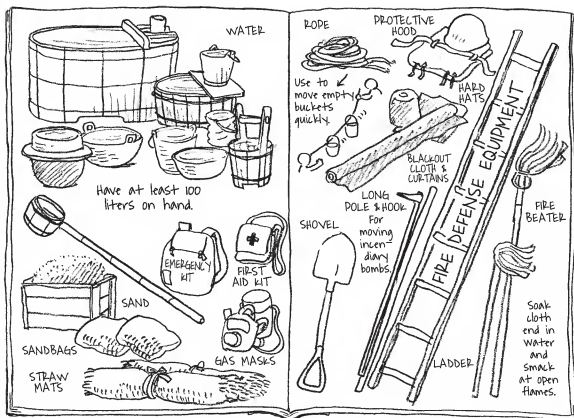


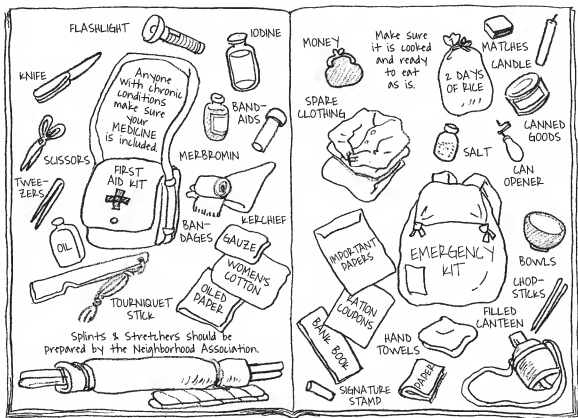
CHAPTER 29

(April, 1945)





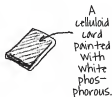




TYPES OF

INCENDIARY LEAF

Look like cards 5-10cm big. It catches fire when dry.

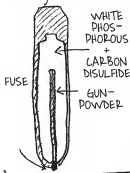


A celluloid card painted with white phosphorus.

Pick up with fire tongs and submerge in a bucket of water. Once all are collected, set in a safe location and burn.

WHITE PHOSPHORUS BOMB

Highly penetrative. Shoots flames across long distance.

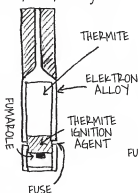


Remove anything splashed by this and submerge in water. If it dries, it will catch fire. Do not touch directly.

INCENDIARY BOMBS

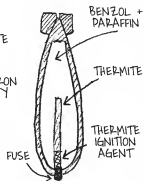
ELEKTRON BOMB

Emits a blinding light and heat of over 2,000-3,000 degrees.



PETROLEUM BOMB

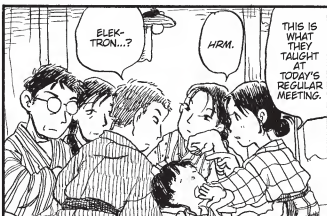
Turns area into a sea of flame.



Throw sand or water on it and beat with a wet fire beater. When the fire dies down to a manageable level, use a shovel to carry it away.



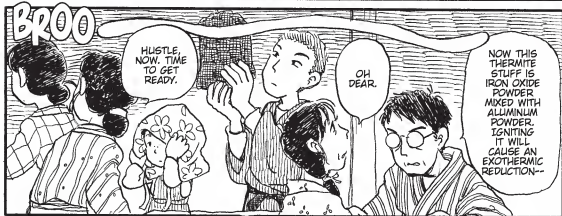
ELEKTRON IS A MAGNESIUM ALLOY. THEY TAKE EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT MAGNESIUM AND MIX IT WITH ALUMINUM OR OTHER METAL.



ELEK-TRON...?

HRM.

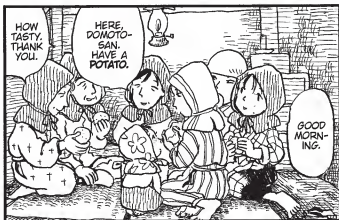
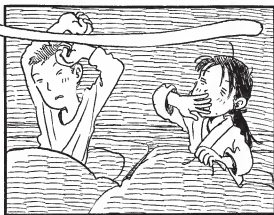
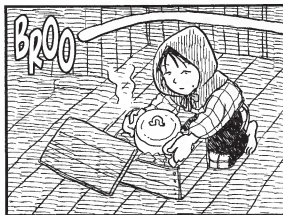
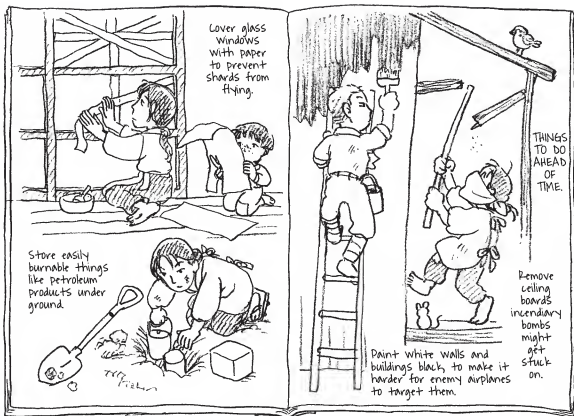
THIS IS WHAT THEY TAUGHT AT TODAY'S REGULAR MEETING.

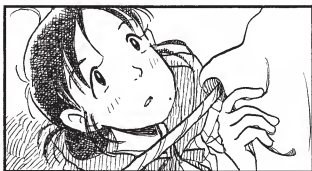
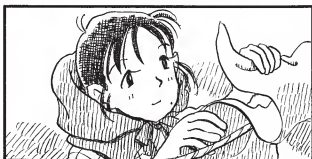
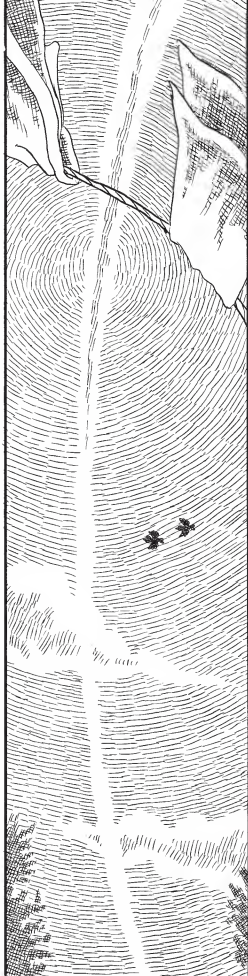


HUSTLE, NOW, TIME TO GET READY.

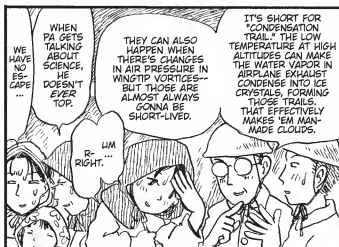
OH DEAR.

NOW THIS THERMITE STUFF IS IRON OXIDE POWDER MIXED WITH ALUMINUM POWDER. IGNITING IT WILL CAUSE AN EXOTHERMIC REDUCTION--



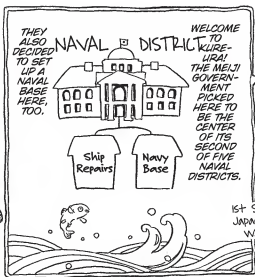


It's thought the first contrail was seen over Japan in 1931. They were still a rare sight when B2s, which flew at very high altitudes, left them in their wakes flying over Kure in 1945.

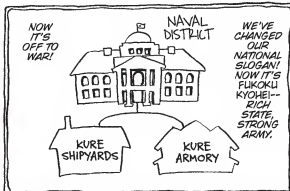


CHAPTER 30

(May, 1945)



The MIYAKO (1899)



Miyahara Village
Soyamada Village
Washo Town
+ Futatabi Town

Kure City is Born!

Russo-Japanese War



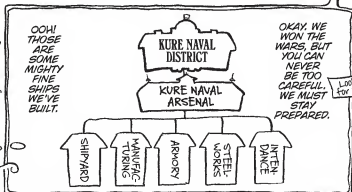
The TSUKUBA (1907)



The IKOMA (1908)



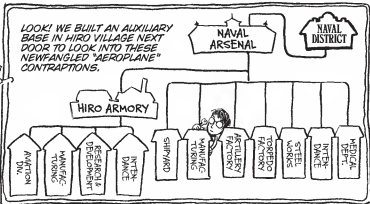
The AKI (1910)



The FUSO (1915)



Submarine #19 (1919)



World War I

1889

MEIJI EPA

1894

1897

1902

1903

1904

1914

TAISHO EPA

1921

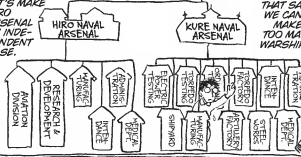
1922
1923
TAISHO ERA
1930
1931
SHOWA ERA
1934
1935
1937
1941

Washington
'Five Power'
Naval
Treaty

BUT IT DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING ABOUT
AIRPLANES!
LET'S MAKE
HIRO
ARSENAL
AN INDE-
PENDENT
BASE.

NAVAL DISTRICT

WELL, WE
SIGNED
A TREATY
THAT SAYS
WE CAN'T
MAKE
TOO MANY
WARSHIPS.



The NAGATO (1920)

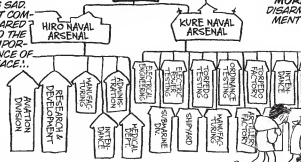


Submarine I-52 (1924)

HRMM,
HAVING TO
DOWNSIZE
IS SAD,
BUT COM-
PARED TO
THE IMPO-
RTANCE OF
PEACE..

NAVAL DISTRICT

WHAT?
EVEN
MORE
DISARMA-
MENT?!



The AKAGI (1927)



The NACHI (1928)

1st
London
Naval
Treaty

Main
Armament
Incident

(Hiro
Arsenal
Anthem
Written)

OH,
WHATEVER!
EVERYONE
GET BACK
HERE! TAKE
UP THOSE
HAMMERS,
THERE'S
WORK
TO DO!

NAVAL DISTRICT

WAIT.
WHAT?
WE'RE
GOING
TO
WAR?!



The MOGAMI (1935)

Submarine Ro-33



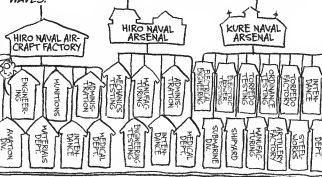
The
Great
Exposition
of the
National
Defense
&
Industry
at Kure
City

2nd
Sino-
Japanese
War

IS AS
THE ROAR
OF THE
WAVES.

NAVAL DISTRICT

THE
CLANG OF
HAMMERS...



The CHITOSE (1938)



The YAMATO (1940)

Hiro
Village
merged
with
Kure
City

*PROTOTYPE ONLY
MITSUBISHI BIMI
(1923)



WITH
ENGINES
HUMMING
IN THE
BACK-
GROUND
...



FELIXTOWE F5 (1922)

HIRO H1H (1927)



THE
SOUND
OF
VOICES
SINGING.



HIRO H2H (1930)

*WITH
THE
STARS
SHINING
ABOVE
AT
DAWN...



HIRO H4H (1932)

HIRO H3H (1931)



THE
SOUNDS
AND
BUSTLE OF
ACTIVITY
FILL THIS
LITTLE
HARBOR.



HIRO G2H (1933)

*AND THE
MOON'S
SHADOW
BENEATH
OUR
FEET AT
NIGHT...

"IN OUR
EARNEST
INDUSTRIOUS-
NESS LIES
THE LIGHT
OF WORLD
PEACE."





FUEL OIL TANKS

INTENDANCE/STORAGE

ENGINEERING

AVIATION

HIRO NAVAL
AIRCRAFT FACTORY

ADMINISTRATION

TO OTHERS,
THEY ARE A
NIGHT-MARE.

ADMINISTRATION

HIRO NAVAL
ARSENAL

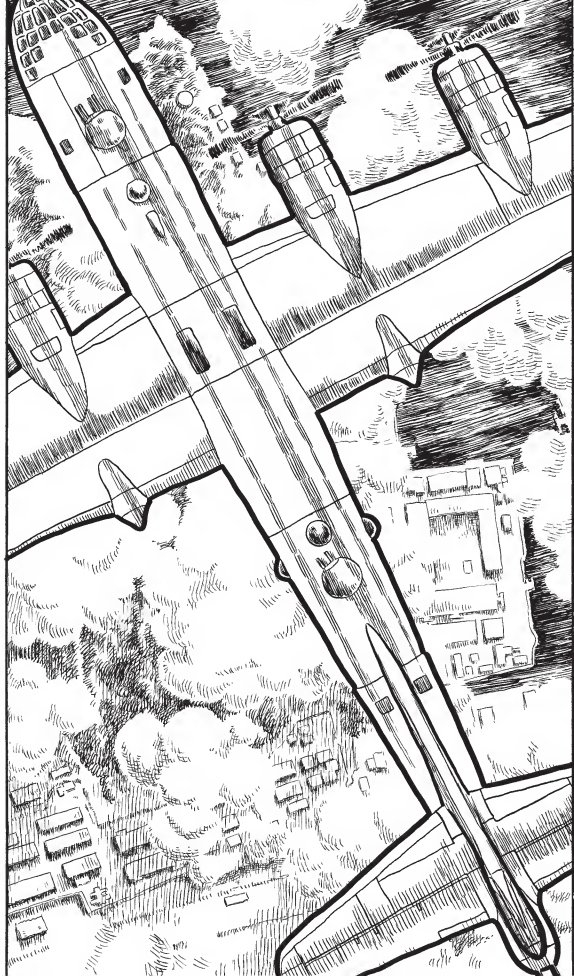
POWER PLANT

METALLURGY TESTING

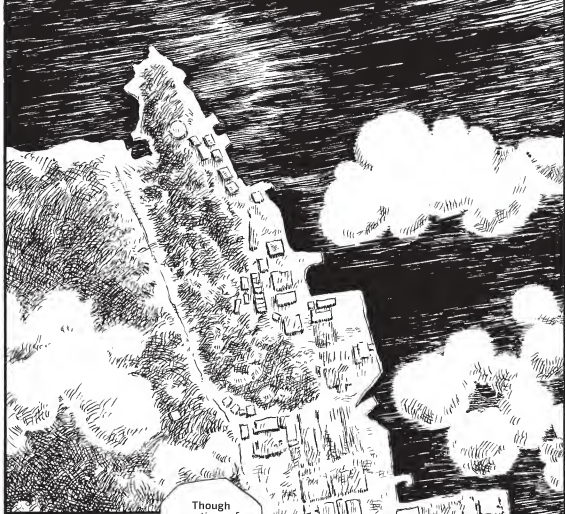
ENGINEERING TESTING

TO KURE
STATION

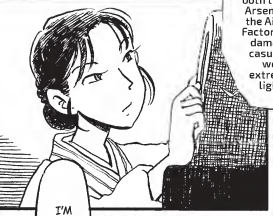
HIRO
STATION



On May 5th, 1945, between 10:27 A.M. and 11:05 A.M., an Allied air strike on the naval facilities in Hiro Town, Kure City, was carried out by upwards of 130 B-29 Superfortresses. Both the Hiro Arsenal and the Hiro Aircraft Factory were largely destroyed. There were over 1,000 casualties in the attack, with 22 navy workers (not servicemen) and 32 civilians reported killed or missing.

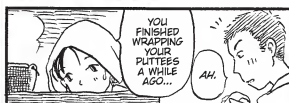
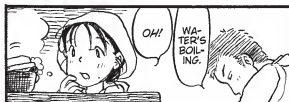
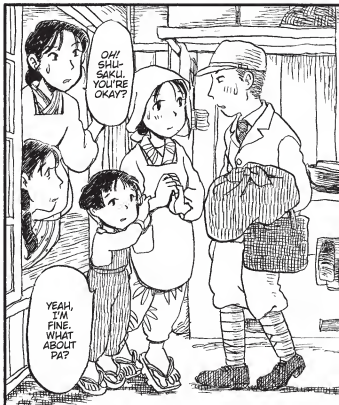
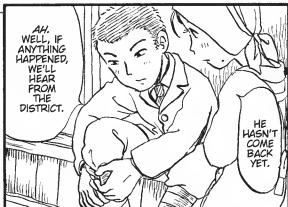


Though sections of both the Hiro Arsenal and the Aircraft Factory were damaged, casualties were extremely light...



I'M HOME.

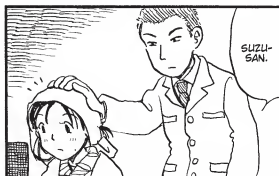
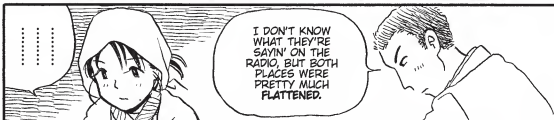
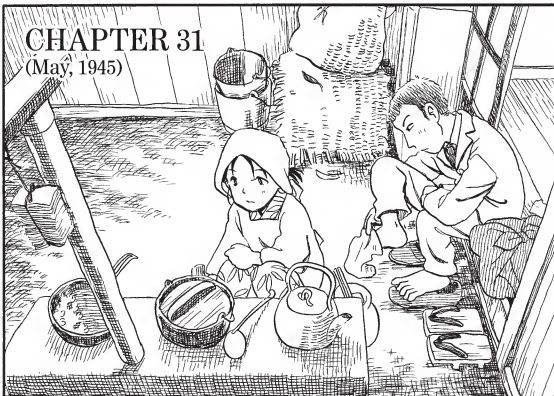
8 Japanese naval installations were actually open to and welcoming of the public until the late 1930s. However, once the war began in earnest in 1941, the government strictly locked down access to them in order to prevent espionage.

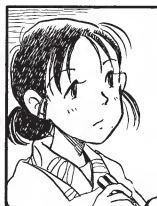
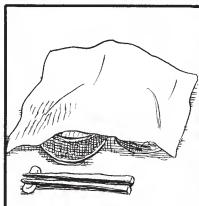
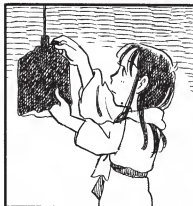
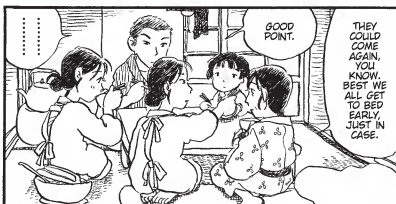
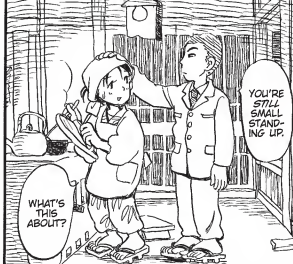


Mid-morning on the 5th, 125 large enemy aircraft staged an attack on Hiro Town. Though sections of both the Hiro Arsenal and the Aircraft Factory were damaged, casualties were extremely light...

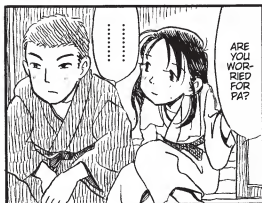
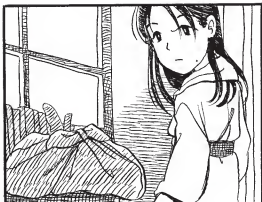
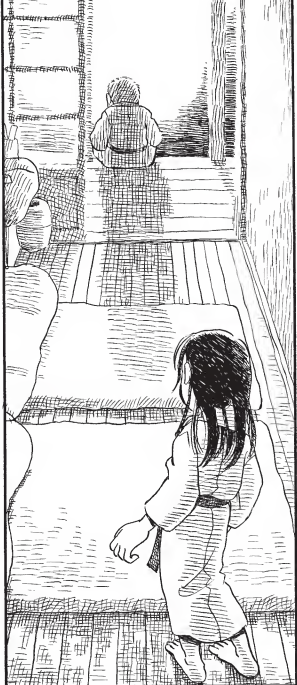
CHAPTER 31

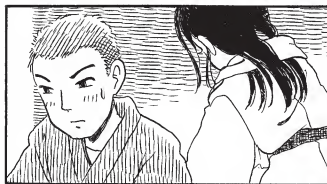
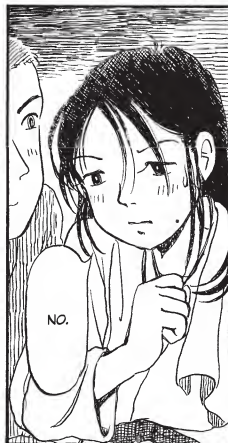
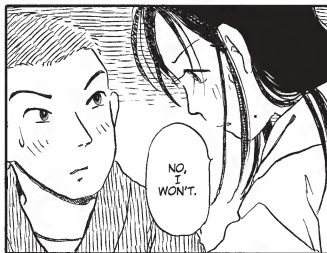
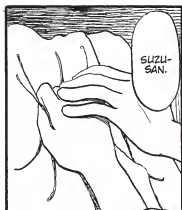
(May, 1945)





Unlike the United States Marine Corps, the Japanese marine corps were not a special fighting unit, but instead the division responsible for training new and low ranking recruits. There was at least one group stationed at each naval district.





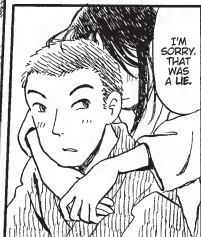


DON'T
WORRY,
THOUGH.
IT'LL
ALL BE
OKAY.

I'LL
WAIT
HERE
FOR
YOU AND
PROTECT
THIS
HOME.

SUZU-
SAN...

BECAUSE
IF I'M
NOT HERE
WAITING,
I DON'T
KNOW IF
I'LL EVER
FIND YOU
AGAIN.



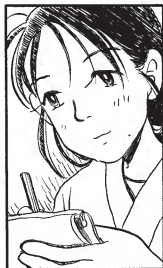
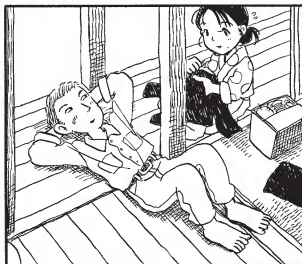
I'M
SORRY.
THAT
WAS
A LIE.

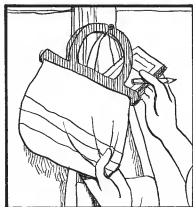
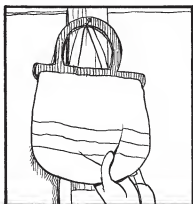
BUT IF
I CAN'T
SEE YOU
FOR
THREE
WHOLE
MONTHS,
I MIGHT
FORGET
WHAT
YOU
LOOK
LIKE.

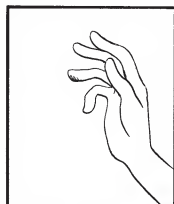
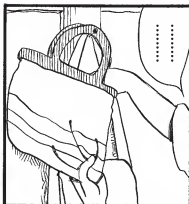
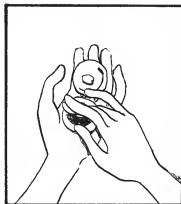


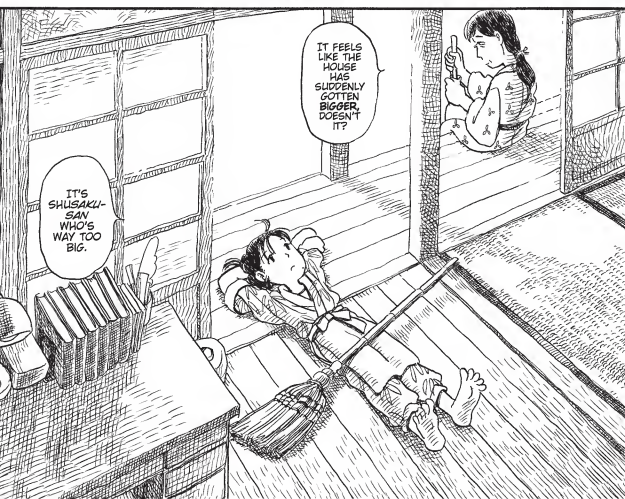
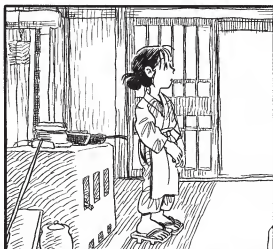
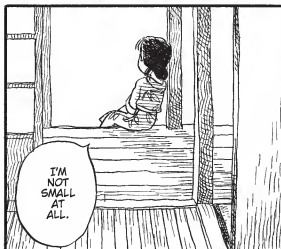
SHU-
SAKU-
SAN...

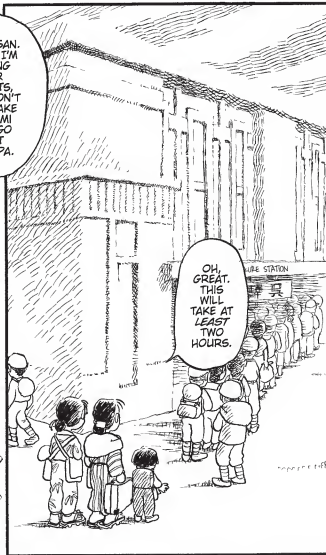
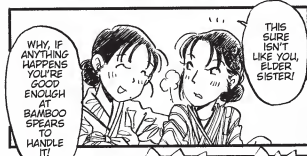
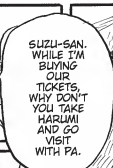
I LIKE
YOU AN
AWFUL
LOT.

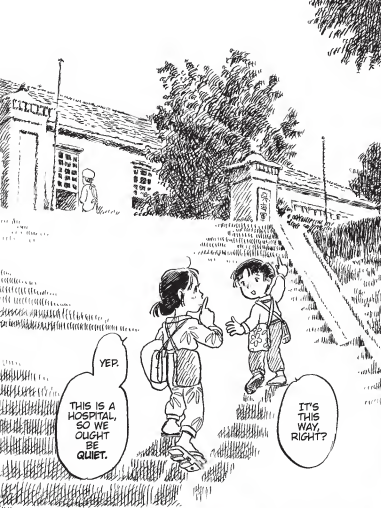




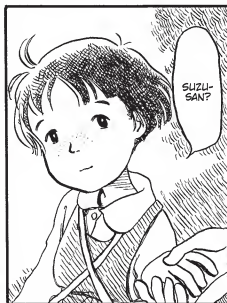


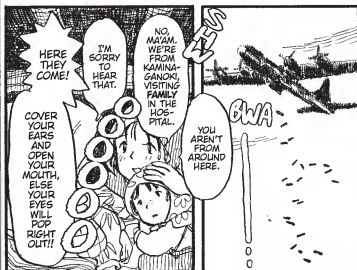
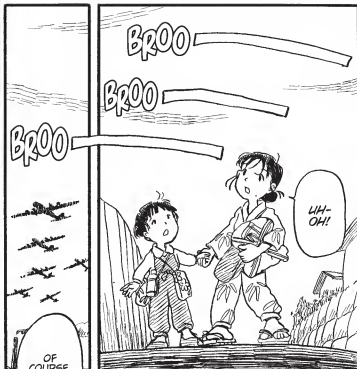
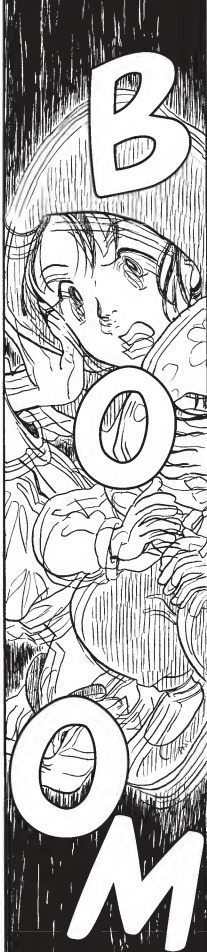


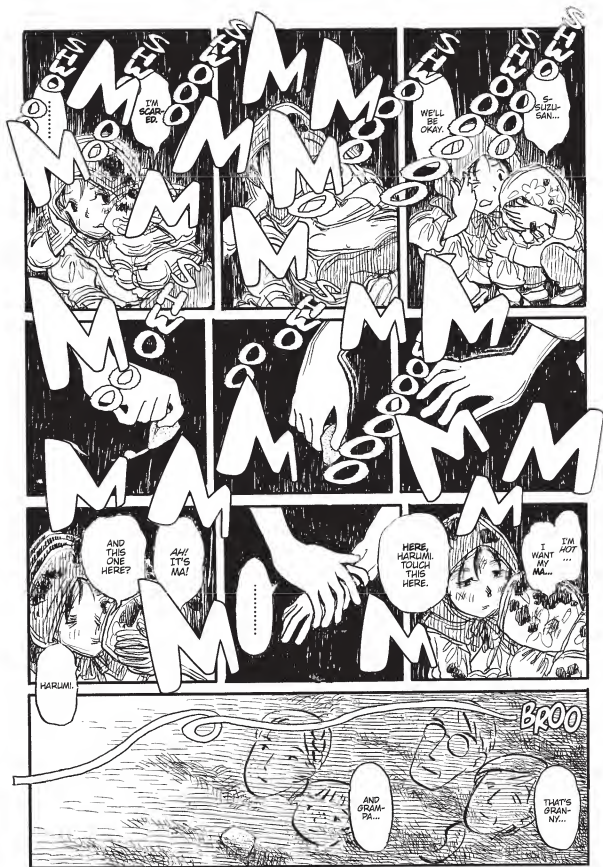




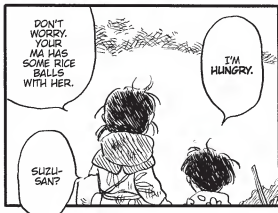
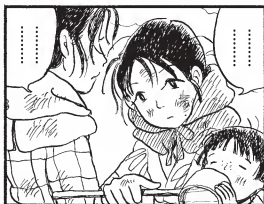
On April 7th, 1945, the Japanese Navy initiated Operation Ten-Go, a large-scale suicide attack on Allied forces in Okinawa. This engagement is also known as the Battle of the East China Sea. The Yamato, the flagship of the Japanese Navy fleet and widely held by many Japanese citizens of the time to be a symbol of the Japanese empire, was sunk by at least 11 torpedoes and 6 bombs. This news was not broken to the public until much, much later.

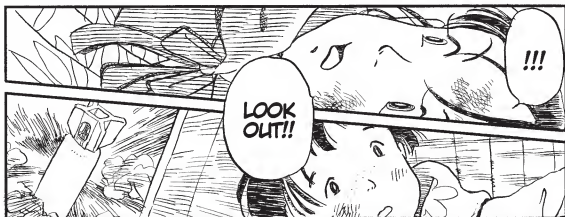
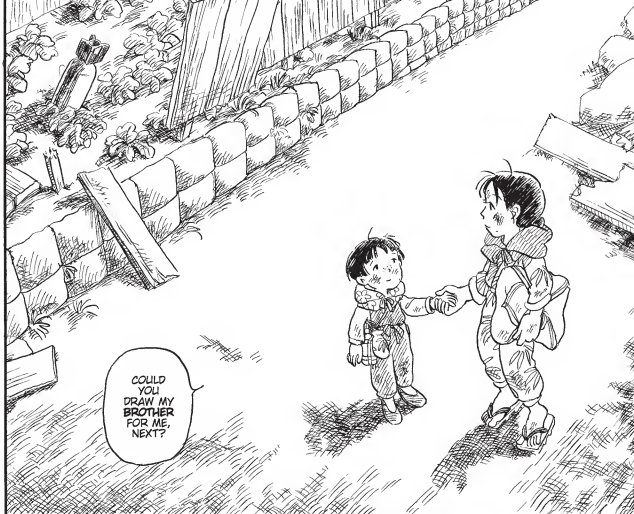






On June 22nd, 1945, from 9:20 A.M. to about noon, approximately 180 Boeing B-29 Superfortresses carried out an extensive attack on the Kure Naval Arsenal. The majority of the installation was destroyed, with only the shipyards emerging mostly intact. 325 airdrop personnel were killed, while 70 civilians were reported dead or missing.

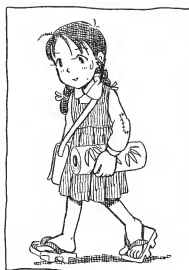




CHAPTER 33

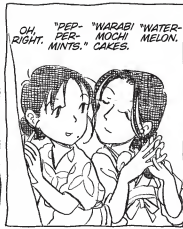
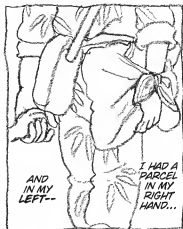
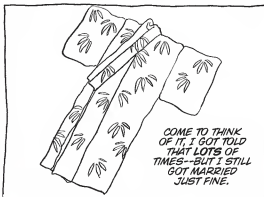
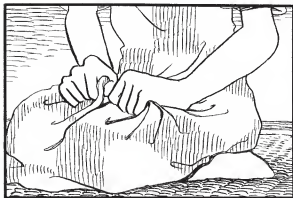
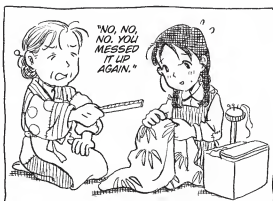
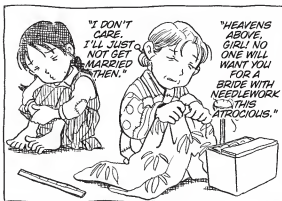
(June, 1945)

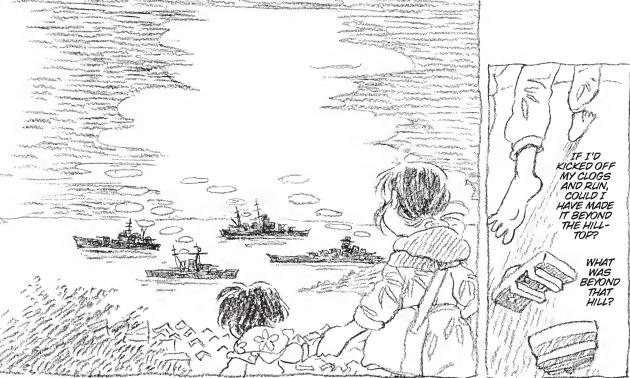
Delay-Action Bombs were aerial bombs designed to explode anywhere from a few minutes to several days after impact. Bombs of this type may have been used in the attack on Kyure.



OH!
SOME-
ONE
COME
HELP!

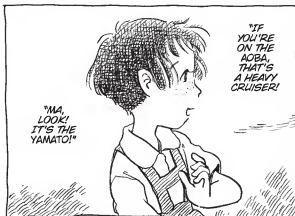
MUSTA
BEEN A
TIME-
DELAY
ONE.





IF I'D
KICKED OFF
MY CLOGS
AND RUN,
COULD I
HAVE MADE
IT BEYOND
THE HILL-
TOP?

WHAT
WAS
BEYOND
THAT HILL?



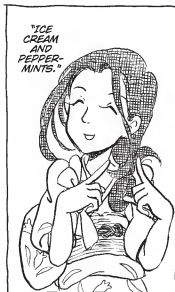
"MA,
LOOK!
IT'S THE
YAMATO!"

"IF
YOU'RE
ON THE
AOBA,
THAT'S
A HEAVY
CRUISER!"



"AND
THAT'S
THE
HYUGA."

"THAT'S
THE
TONE."



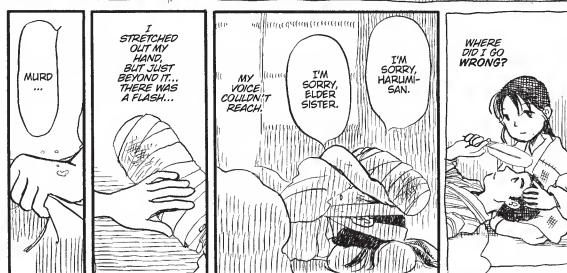
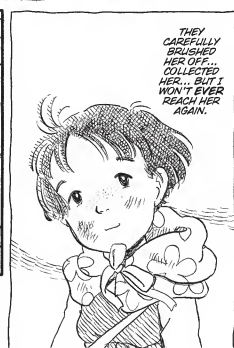
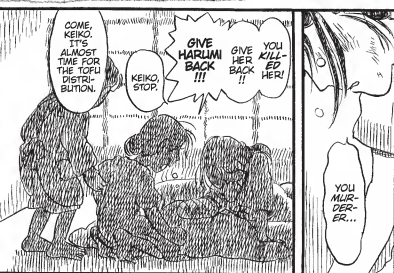
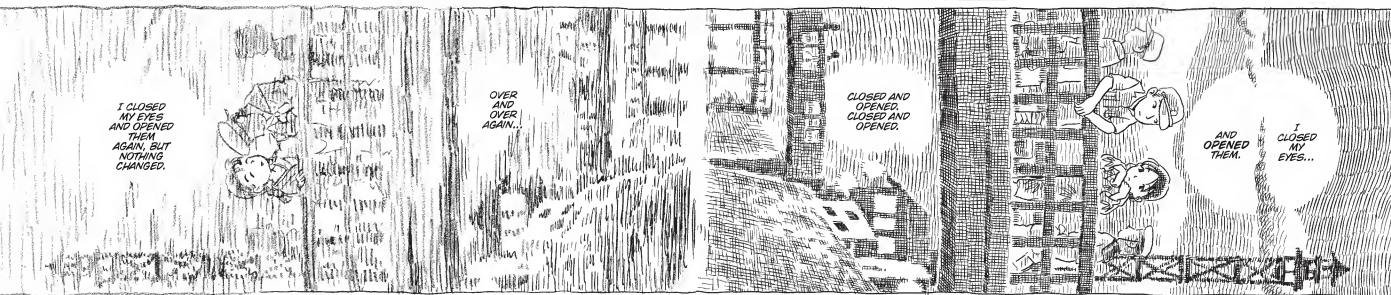
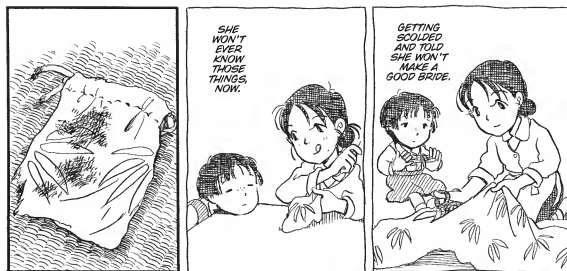
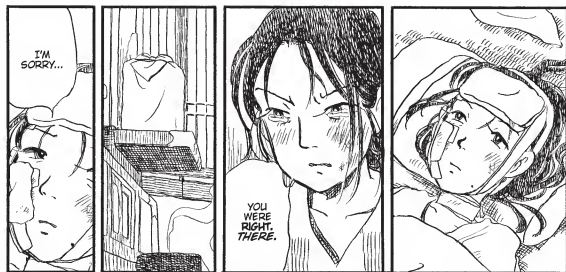
"ICE
CREAM
AND
PEPPER-
MINTS."



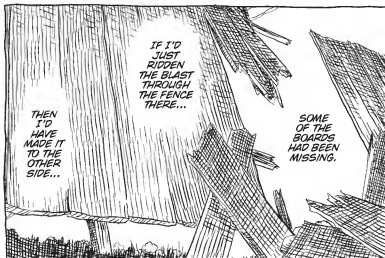
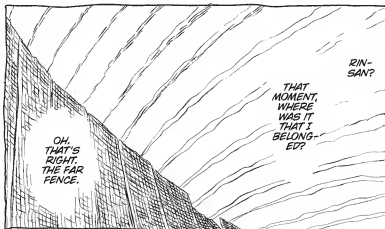
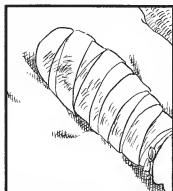
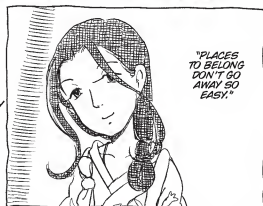
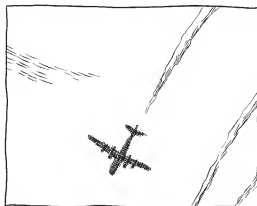
SHE'S AN
AWFUL
LOT LIKE
SHUSAKU-
SAN.

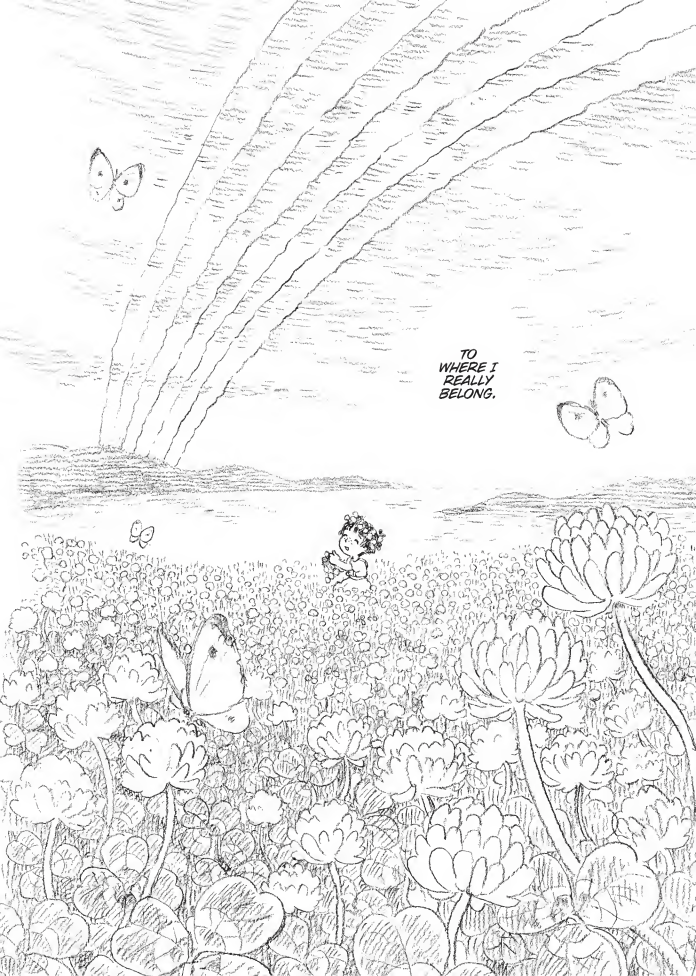


YOU
KNOW,
THINKING
ABOUT
IT...

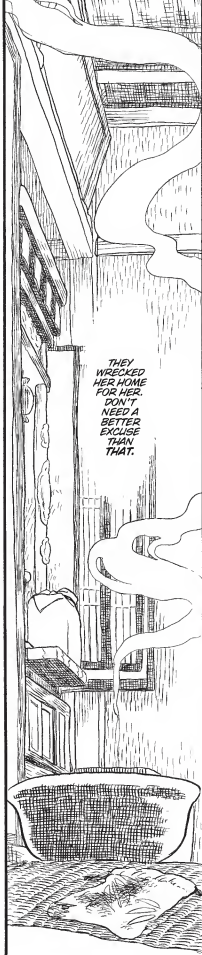


REALLY?





TO
WHERE I
REALLY
BELONG.



THEY
WRECKED
HER HOME
FOR HER.
DON'T
NEED A
BETTER
EXCUSE
THAN
THAT.



BROO

I DON'T
HEAR
PLANE
EN-
GINES.

GOOD-
NESS
AGAIN?

YOUR
ARM HAS
GOTTA
BE
HURTING,
RIGHT?

GO
BACK
TO
SLEEP.



THAT IT IS,
DON'T YOU
WORRY.

THIS
HOUSE
IS
OKAY...?



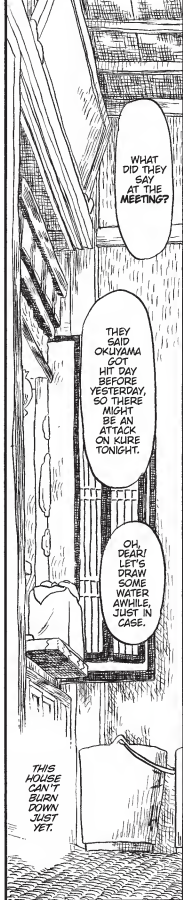
I'M
GLAD...

DID SHE
GET TO
LEAVE
THIS
TOWN?

HER
HOUSE
WAS DE-
STROYED.
I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER.

LIES!

THAT
LADY.



WHAT
DID THEY
SAY
AT THE
MEETING?

THEY
SAID
OKUYAMA
GOT
HIT DAY
BEFORE
YESTERDAY,
SO THERE
MIGHT
BE AN
ATTACK
ON KURE
TONIGHT.

OH,
DEAR!
LET'S
DRAW
SOME
WATER
AWHILE,
JUST IN
CASE.

THIS
HOUSE
CAN'T
BURN
DOWN
JUST
YET.



LET'S
HANG
THE
BANDAGES
TO DRY
OUT
FRONT.

OH,
GOOD.
THE
SUN
CAME
OUT.

AND THE
RAIN LET
UP BY
EVENING.

CHAPTER 34

(July, 1945)



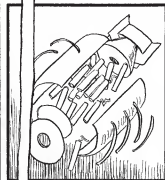
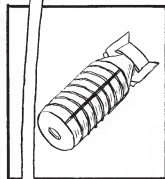
DON'T
PUSH
YOUR-
SELF,
ALL
RIGHT?

OH, I'LL
BE FINE.
IF IT
GETS TOO
TIRING, I'LL
JUST TAKE
A BREAK
THERE.

IT
WASN'T
LONG
BEFORE
FATHER
WAS ABLE
TO GET
UP AND
ABOUT.

SEE
YOU
LATER,
PA.





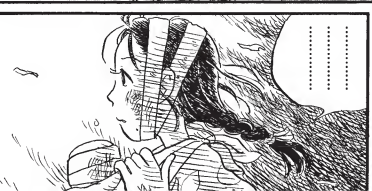


"SUZU-
SAN,
YOU
GONNA
BE
OKAY?"



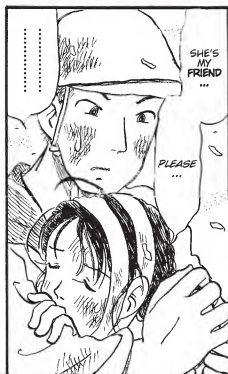
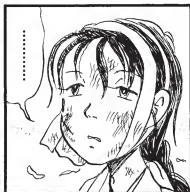
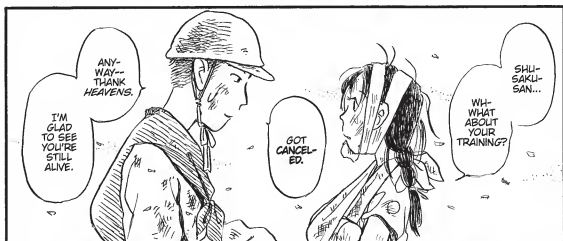
"WILL
YOU BE
ABLE TO
PROTECT
THIS
HOUSE
ALL BY
YOUR-
SELF?"











CHAPTER 35

(July, 1945)



THE HAND THAT HAD SMACKED SHUSAKU-SAN IN EMBARRASSMENT LAST SEPTEMBER.

THE HAND THAT HAD DRAWN A WATERMELON FOR RIN-SAN LAST AUGUST.

THE HAND THAT HAD DRAWN THE SKETCH OF THE TONE AND THE HYUGA THAT GOT ME IN TROUBLE LAST JULY.

THE HAND THAT HAD HELD THE MUSTARD SPINACH SEEDS LAST JUNE.

THE HAND THAT HAD DROPPED ITS CHOPSTICKS IN SURPRISE AT THE LORD KUSUNOKI RICE LAST MAY.

THE HAND THAT HAD PICKED DANDELIONS LAST APRIL.

THE HAND THAT HAD DRAWN THE SKETCH OF HOME LAST MARCH.

THE HAND THAT HAD TOUCHED SHUSAKU-SAN FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST FEBRUARY.

THE HAND THAT HAD LOVED MAKING SEAWEED IN WINTER, TWO YEARS AGO.

THE HAND THAT HAD DRAWN SO MANY LEAPING RABBITS SEVEN YEARS AGO.

THE HAND THAT HAD DRAWN A PICTURE OF MA IN THE SAND FOR SUMI-CHAN IN SUMMER, TEN YEARS AGO.

YESTERDAY, I FOUND OUT MY RIGHT HAND WAS GONE.

THE HAND THAT HAD GRABBED HARUMI-SAN'S HAND IN JUNE.

THE HAND THAT HAD SKETCHED SHUSAKU-SAN'S SLEEPINGFACE IN MAY.

THE HAND THAT HAD TAKEN TERU-SAN'S LIP ROUGE IN APRIL.

THE HAND THAT HAD COPIED HISAO-SAN'S TEXTBOOKS IN MARCH.

THE HAND THAT HAD PICKED UP THE ROCK THAT WAS BIG BROTHER'S BRAINS IN FEBRUARY.

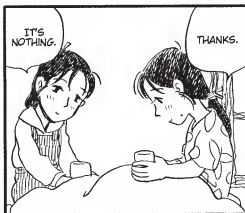
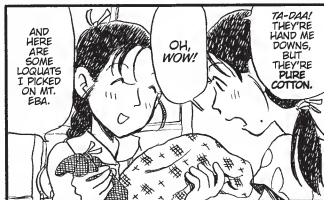
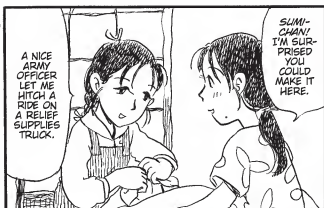
THE HAND THAT HAD GRABBED SO MANY KARUTA CARDS IN JANUARY.

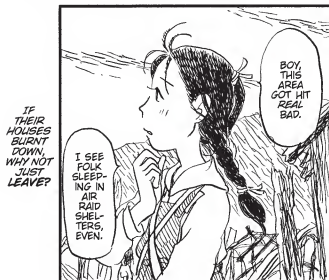
THE HAND THAT HAD HELD MIZUHARA-SAN'S HAND LAST DECEMBER.

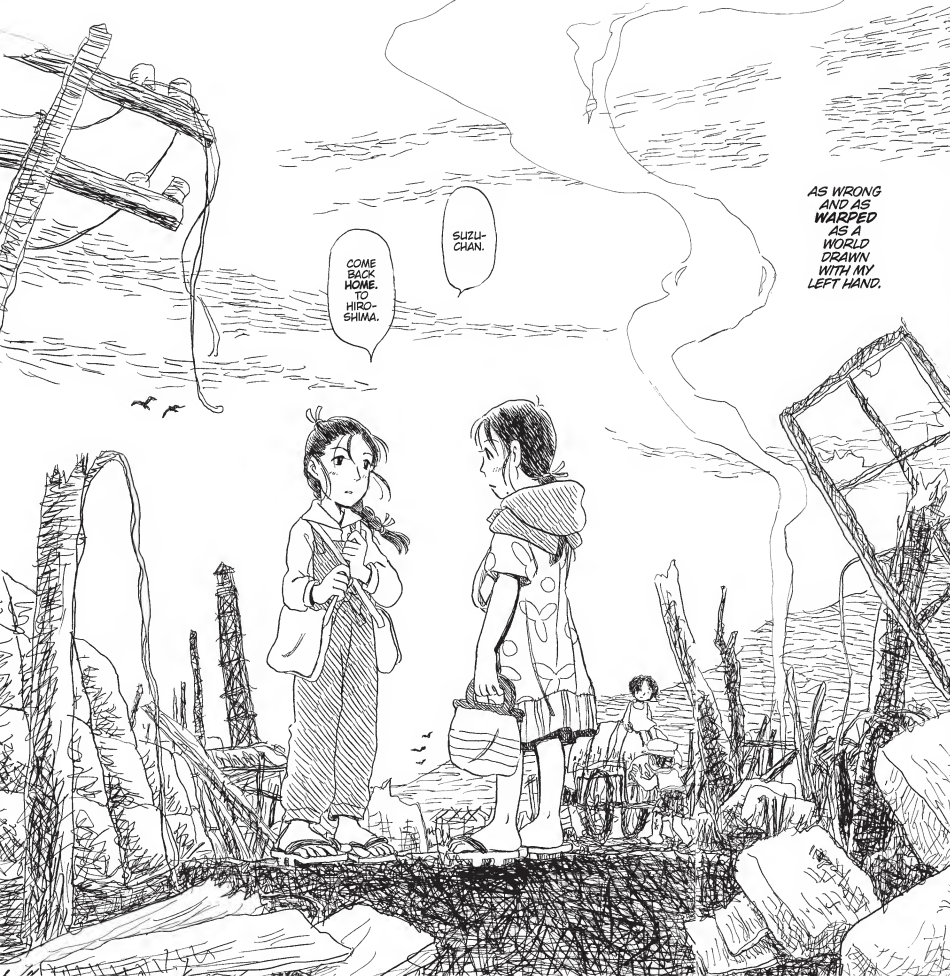
THE HAND THAT HAD CUT THE WRONG PARTS OF ELDER SISTER'S COAT LAST NOVEMBER.

THE HAND THAT HAD TREMBLED OPENING THAT DRAWER LAST OCTOBER.

Starting in 1938, the Japanese government mandated that all cotton yarns and fabrics be blended with the synthetic fiber rayon (called "suri" in Japanese). The cheaply made rayon was poor quality and not very durable. Fabrics and clothes made with 100% natural cotton quickly became very valuable.







COME
BACK
HOME.
TO
HIO-
SHIMA.

SUZU-
CHAN.

AS WRONG
AND AS
WARPED
AS A
WORLD
DRAWN
WITH MY
LEFT HAND.

SOMEONE
MUST'VE
DIED
HERE.

LOOK.
THERE'S
INCENSE.

I'VE WALKED
BY FOLK
LYING DEAD IN
THE STREET
WITHOUT
EVEN BAT-
TLING AN EYE.



WHY, THAT
LAST ONE
WAS SO
BAD WE
COULD SEE
THE SKY
GOING
RED EVEN
FROM
HOME.

SUMI-
CHAN IS
ONLY A
YEAR
YOUNGER
THAN ME,
BUT...

IT'S SO
BAD HOW
KURE'S
BEEN HIT
WITH SO
MANY AIR
RAIDS.

I KNOW
I'M THE
ONE
WHO'S
ALL
WRONG...

DOING
YOUR
DUTY FOR
THE HOJO
FAMILY
HAS TO
BE REAL
HARD.

I KNOW.

SO,
ER...
WITH
YOUR...
YOUR
HAND...

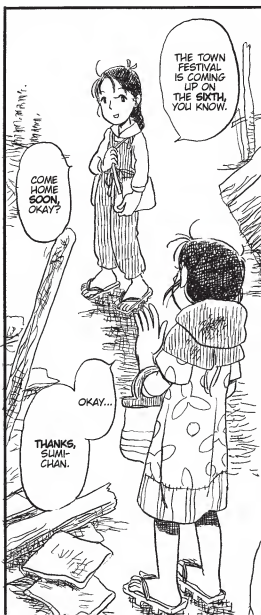


AND THE
OGRE
BROTHER
ISN'T EVER
COMING
BACK. THERE
WON'T BE
NO ONE TO
PICK ON
YOU.

THERE
AIN'T ANY
RAIDS ON
HIROSHIMA.



H-
HUH...?



COME
HOME
SOON,
OKAY?

THE TOWN
FESTIVAL
IS COMING
UP ON
THE SIXTH,
YOU KNOW.

OKAY...

THANKS,
SUMI-
CHAN.

I AM GLAD THAT MY OLDER BROTHER IS DEAD.



THAT'S
A
GOOD
POINT.

I'M
GLAD.



H-HEY!
DON'T
SAY
SCANDALOUS
STUFF
LIKE
THAT!

MAYBE
I'LL COME
HAVE
MYSELF
A LOOK
AT THIS
OFFICER
OF YOURS
AND SEE
HOW
HAND-
SOME
HE IS.



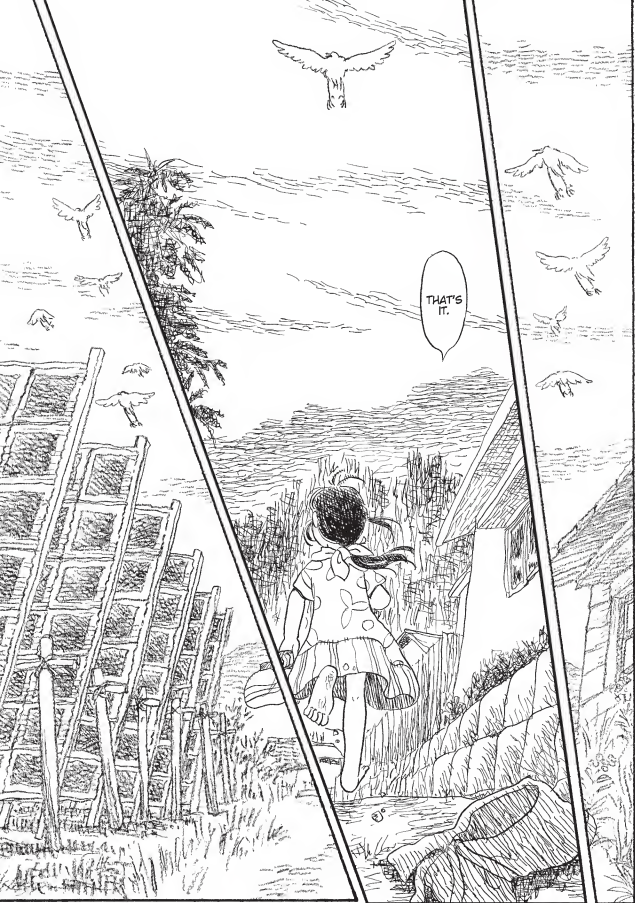
I THINK
YOU COMING
HOME IS A
GOOD IDEA,
THOUGH.

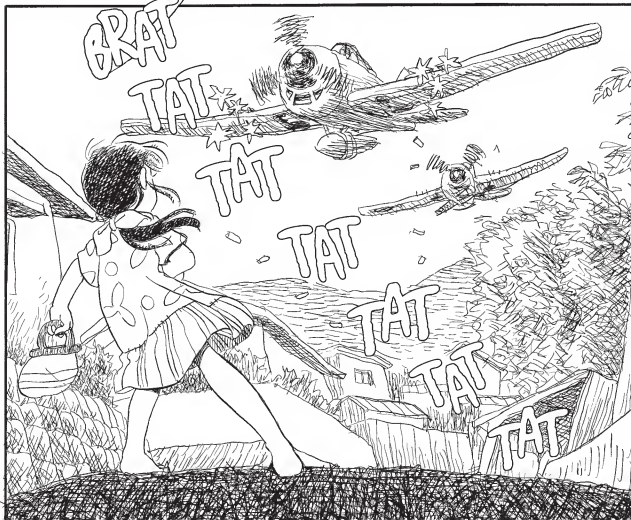
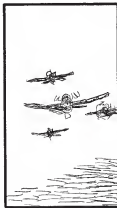
SURE
YOU DO.

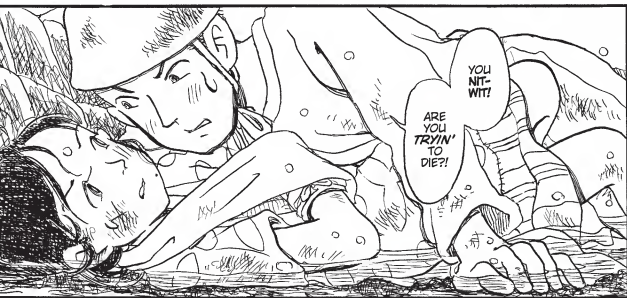
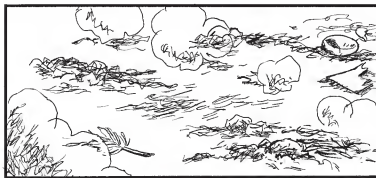
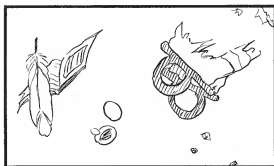
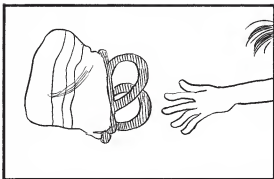
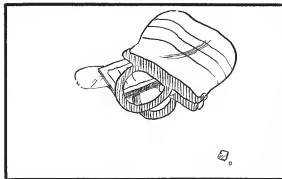
I KID,
I KID.

I'M
REALLY,
HONEST-
LY GLAD.

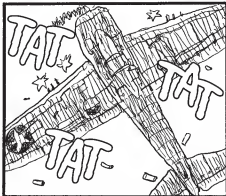
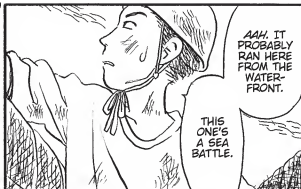




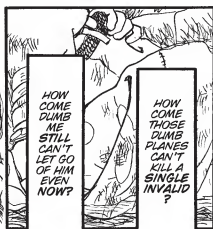
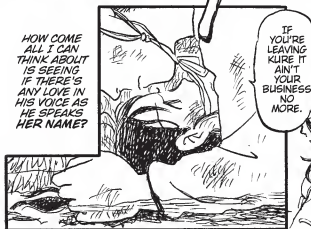




In July, 1945, the Japanese navy's surviving large warships were primarily anchored around Kure. However, thanks to fuel shortages, none of them could maneuver. Instead, they were being used almost exclusively as floating anti-aircraft batteries. One of them was the Aoba, the warship on which Mizuhara was stationed.



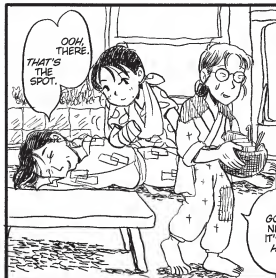


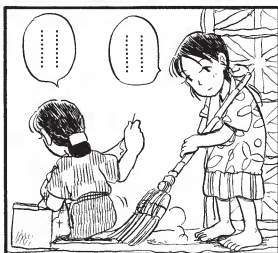
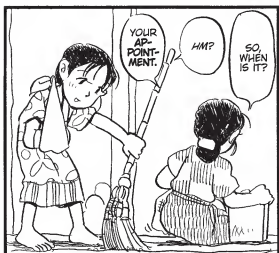
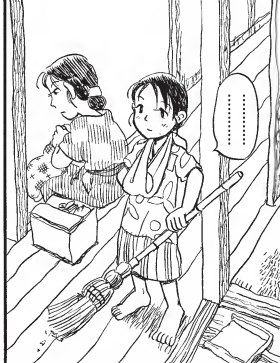


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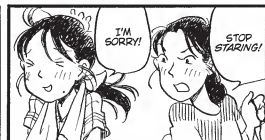
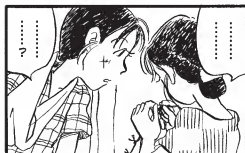
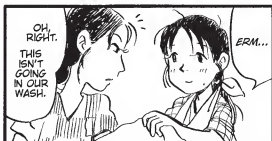
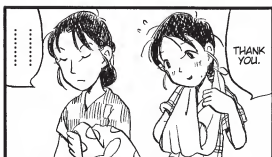
(August, 1945)

BROO

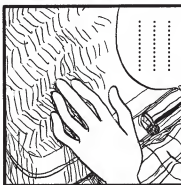




Every year, on the 29th day of the sixth month in the old lunar calendar, Ebis town holds a grand and very boisterous Shinto rite honoring the sea, called the "Fire Festival". It was much more restrained during the war years, but even then there was still a street fair that the residents could enjoy.







.....

I DID.

KEIKO-CHAN, DID YOU SEE A FLASH JUST NOW?

IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY OUT, THOUGH.

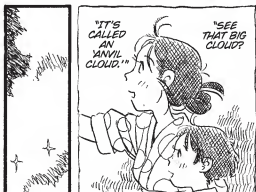
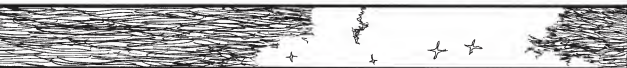
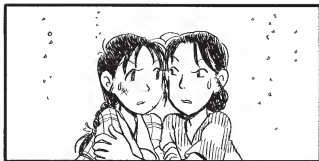
WAS IT LIGHTNING, MAYBE?

COULD...
COULD I
ASK YOU
TO WASH
THIS
AFTER
ALL?

UM...
ELDER
SISTER?

AND, ER...
COULD I
ASK YOU
TO LET
ME STAY
HERE,
TOO?

O-O-KAY!
O-KAY!
NOW
LET GO.
THIS IS
EMBAR-
RASSING.





On August 6th, 1945, at approximately 8:15 A.M., the B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb, nicknamed 'Little Boy,' on the city of Hiroshima. (Note: It was approximately 20 kilometers from the hypocenter of the blast in Hiroshima to the Higo house in Kure. It is thought that it took approximately one minute for the sound of the explosion to cross that distance.)

CHAPTER 38

(August, 1945)

DUNNO.
IT'S BEEN
NOTHING
BUT
STATIC.

WHAT'S
THE
RADIO
SAY?

THEY'RE
TURNING
THE
TRAINS
BACK
WHEN
THEY HIT
KOYALURA
NOW.

I HEARD
IT WAS
THE
POWER
PLANT
IN
SAKA.

THEY'RE
SAYIN'
THE BIG
MAGAZINE
OVER IN
KAITA
BLEW.

YOKOSAWA

HITOASHIMA

MUJIKENDOKI

KAITA-TANI

YANO

SAKA

KOYALURA

AKASHI-
YASAKI

TENNOU

KABUSHI-
KAWA

YOSHIDA

SAKAKASHI

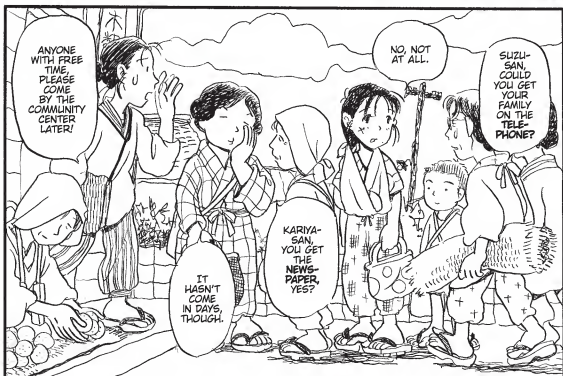
KURE

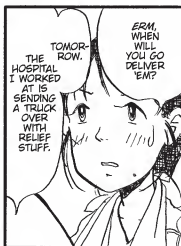
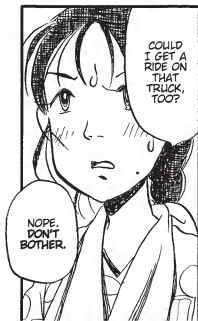
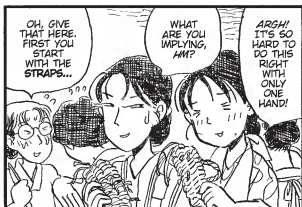
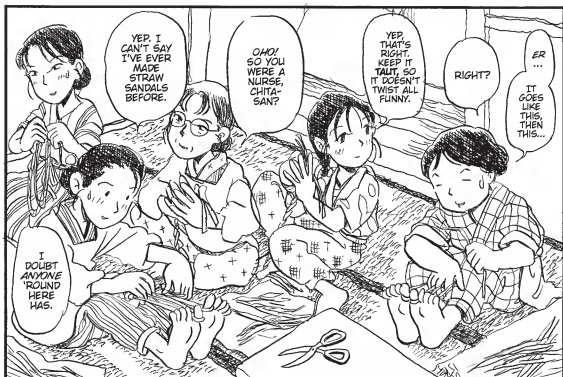
AGA

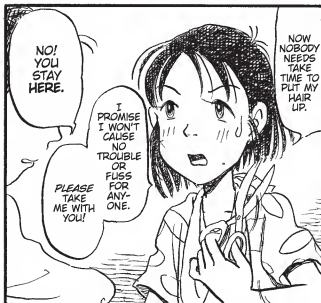
COULDN'T
BE.
DON'T
GET
YOUR
HOPES
UP.

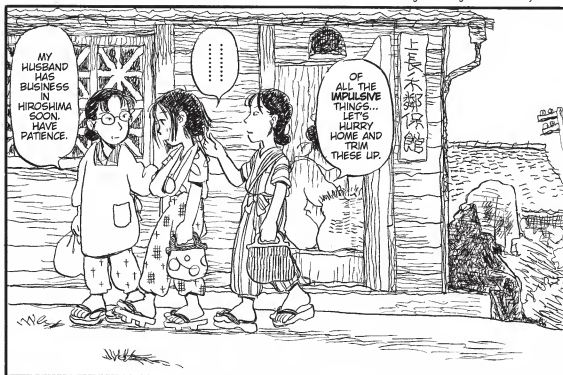
WHAT,
JUST THE
ARMY
TESTING
A NEW
BOMB?
NAAAAH.

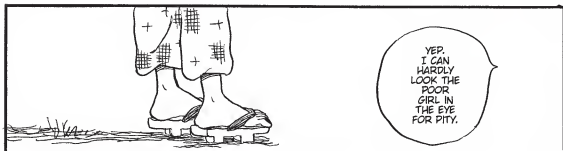
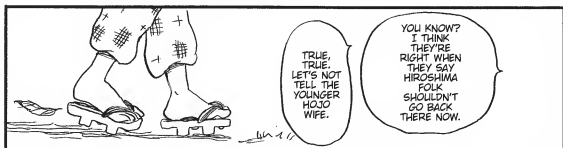
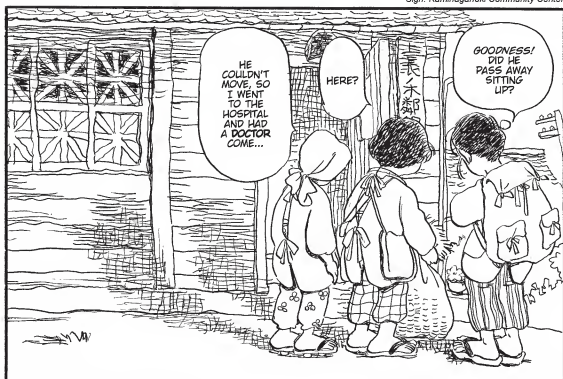
The Kawanishi train station was closed in 1940 as a fuel conservation measure. It was not reopened until 1998.

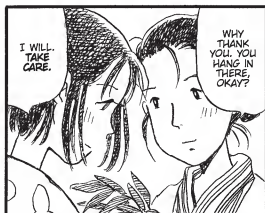
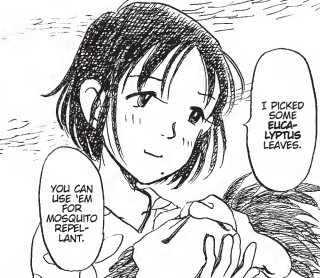












Eucalyptus leaves have a scent that insects dislike. The smoke they give off when burned is an effective mosquito repellent.



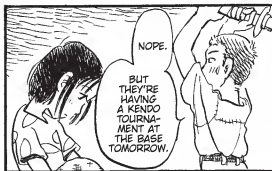
CHAPTER 39

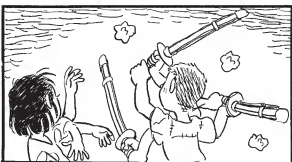
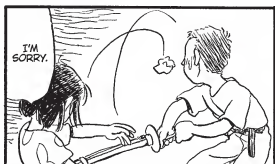
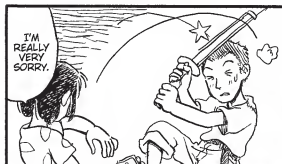
(August, 1945)



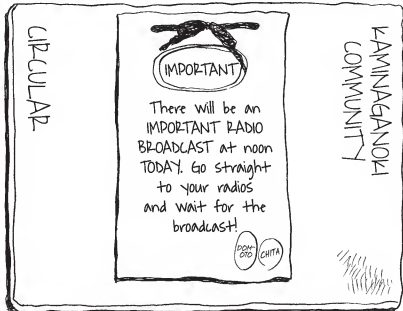
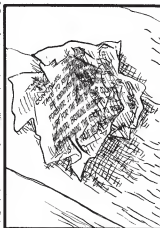
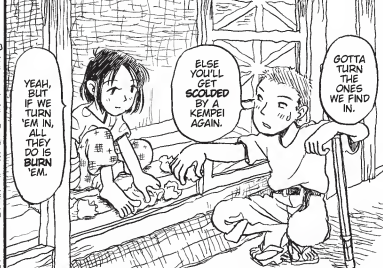


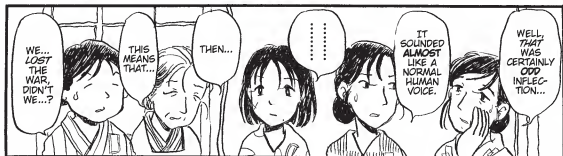
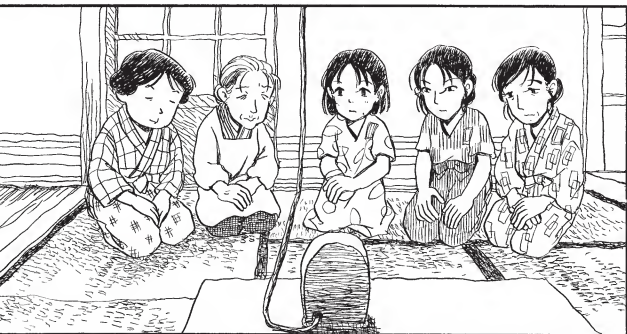
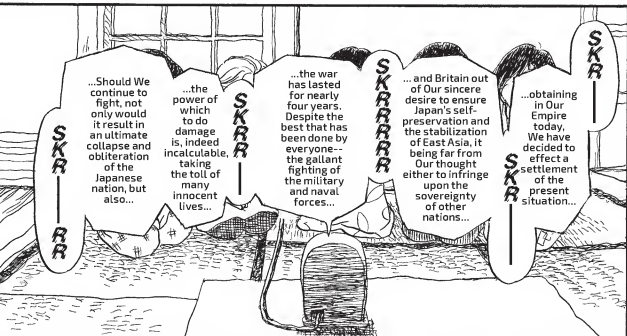
IF THIS WAR CONTINUES,
THE RESULT WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF
THE NATION OF JAPAN. THIS IS A CLEAR AND
PRESENT TRUTH. THE LONGER THIS WAR
CONTINUES, THE GREATER AN EFFORT IT WILL
TAKE TO REBUILD AFTERWARD. JAPAN MAY
BE RENDERED WEAK AND POWERLESS
FOREVER. IT IS EASY TO SACRIFICE YOUR
LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR COUNTRY.
HOWEVER, BRINGING AN END TO THIS WAR
AND BEGINNING THE EFFORT TO REBUILD
IS THE TRUE ACT OF LOYALTY.

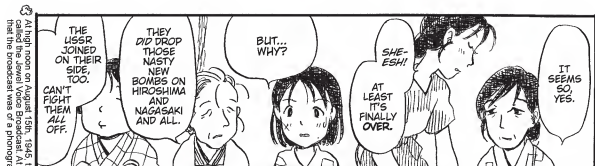




At the end of the Pacific War, the Allied Forces used B-29 Superfortresses to drop millions of propaganda leaflets on specifically targeted Japanese cities, purportedly hoping to reduce innocent casualties. Called the Tuley bombing leaflet, as their use was ordered by General Curtis LeMay, these leaflets warned of impending bombings or exhorted the Japanese people to accept surrender. In response, the Japanese government ordered anyone who picked up these leaflets to turn them over directly to the authorities without reading them. There were strict penalties for anyone who did read or keep them.

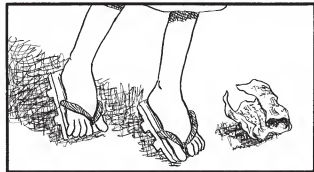


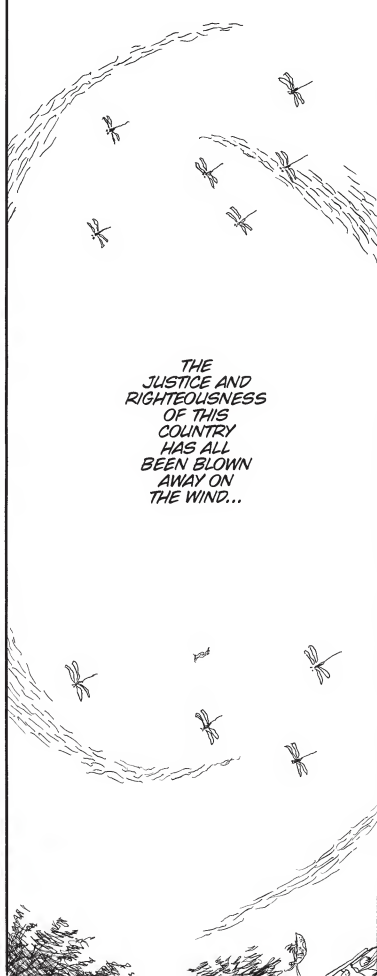
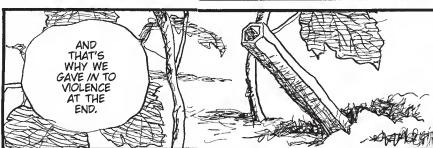


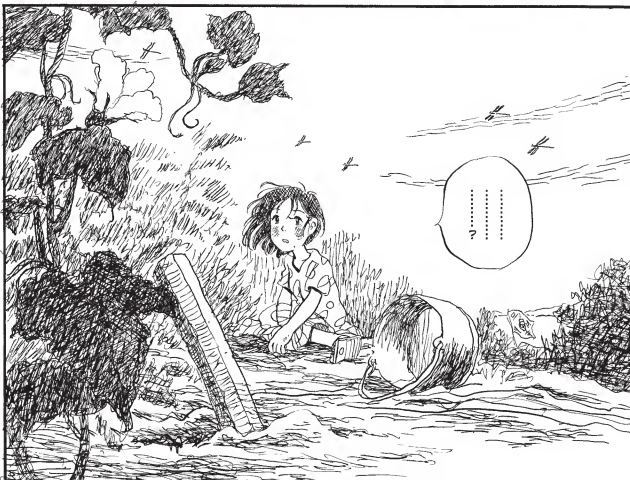
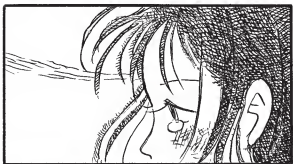


At high noon on August 15th, 1945, there was a radio broadcast of Emperor Hirohito reading about the Imperial Rescript on the Termination of the War, which brought World War II to a close. This would later be called the Japan Voice broadcast. At the time, Japanese citizens still thought the Emperor was a living god - this was likely the first time the common Japanese in Japan heard the Imperial voice. Unfortunately, given that the broadcast was of a phonograph recording of the Emperor reading the Rescript, and that the speech itself was channelled in classical courtly Japanese, most people barely understood what was being said.

IT'S
ALL
BEEN
BLOWN
AWAY...







CHAPTER 40

(September, 1945)



NOW
WHAT
WE HAVE
HERE IS
A BIG
ROUND
EYE.

IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
CHOSEN
LAND
PROTECTED
BY DIVINE
GRACE.

AND THIS
HERE IS
WHAT WAS,
UNTIL LAST
MONTH,
HAILED
AS THE
UNCON-
QUERABLE
LAND OF
THE GODS.

FW
OO
OO

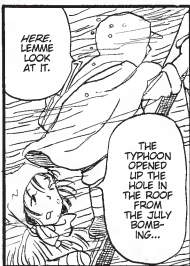
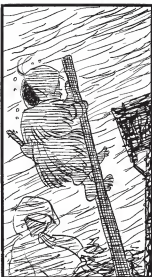
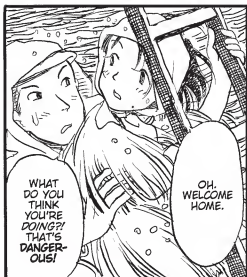
THIS IS THE
REMNANTS
OF WHAT
USED TO BE
THE PACIFIC'S
GREATEST
SHIPYARD.

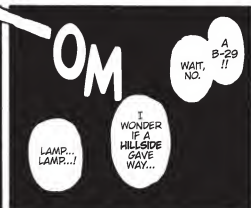
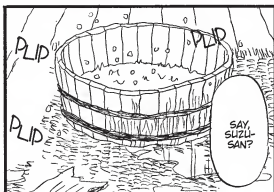
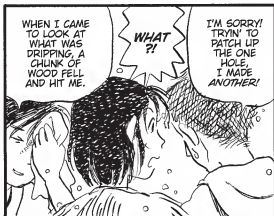
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.
PLEASE
STAY
INSIDE
AND
REST
UP.

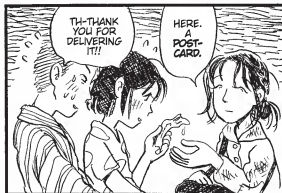
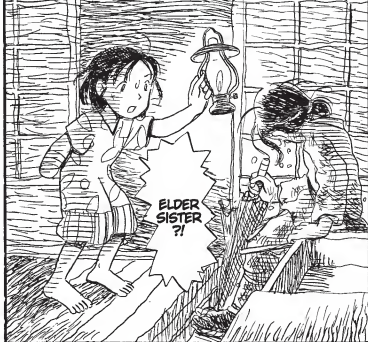
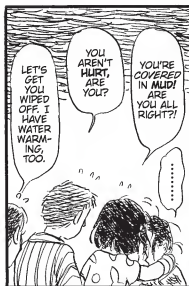
I'D GO UP
AND FIX IT,
BUT I'VE
BEEN FEELING
UNDER THE
WEATHER
SINCE GETTING
BACK FROM
HIROSHIMA.

DON'T
PUSH
YOUR-
SELF,
OKAY?

The Makurazaki Typhoon blew through the Hiroshima region September 17th and 18th, 1945. Considered one of the three most devastating typhoons in the Showa Era, it ripped across the wreckage of Hiroshima and Kure, destroying much of what had managed to survive the bombings. Over 2,400 people were killed by the storm, 954 of them in Kure.









RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
TRA
TO

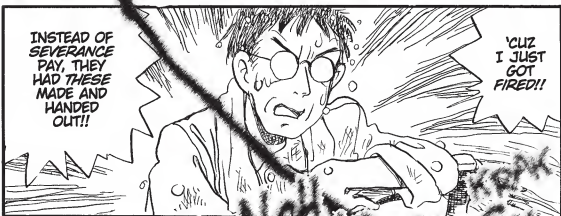


IT'S A BRAND
NEW
HOE.

LOOK-
IT.



WEL-
COME
HOME,
PA!

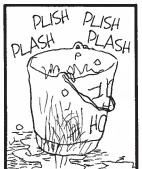
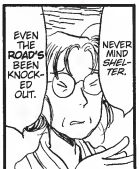
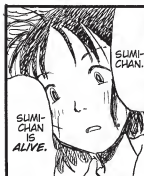
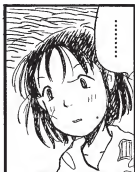
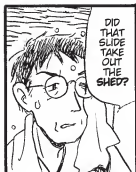


INSTEAD OF
SEVERANCE
PAY, THEY
HAD THESE
MADE AND
HANDED
OUT!!

'CUZ
I JUST
GOT
FIRED!!

WHUUNCH
KRUNCH
ON



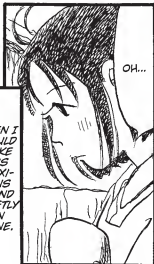
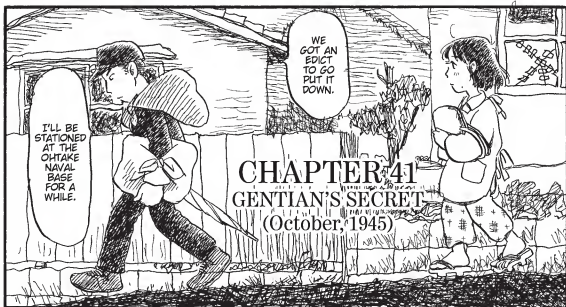
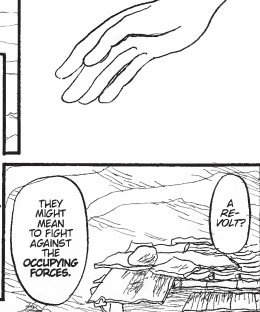


28 The only other time Japan faced the threat of invasion by a foreign power in its history was in the late 13th century, when the Mongols twice attempted to invade from the Korean peninsula. Both times the invading fleet was destroyed by a typhoon. These typhoons came to be described as "divine winds" sent by the gods to protect Japan. The word for "divine wind" in Japanese is *kami kaze*.



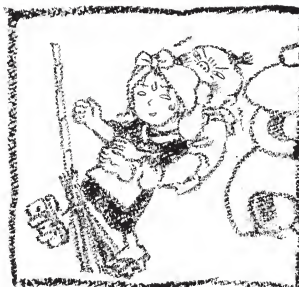


OH, IF
ONLY I
STILL
HAD
BOTH
HANDS.



After the end of the war, there were still pockets of resistance to Japan's surrender. Official Imperial Edicts were issued to suppress them.





I
WON'T.

ONCE
YOU GET
BACK
HOME,
DON'T
SET
FOOT
OUTSIDE
FOR
NOTH-
ING.

HEAR?

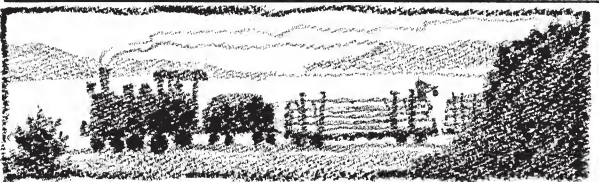
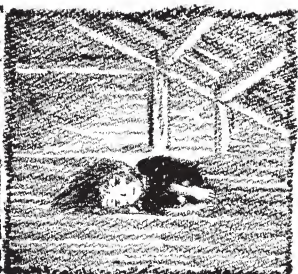


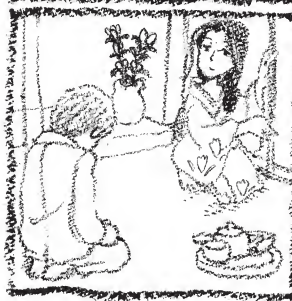
YEP,
EVERY-
ONE'S
WELL
PRE-
PARED.

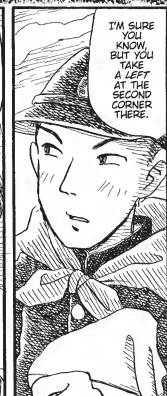
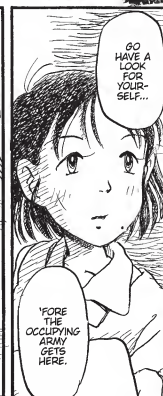
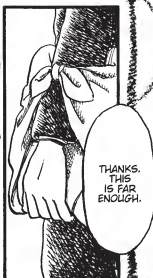


IT'S
SO
QUIET
OUT
TODAY.

284 The American occupation forces arrived in Hiroshima's harbor on October 6th, 1945. At noon on the 7th, 19,500 navy personnel disembarked and took up quarters in the Kure region. The Japanese residents, fearing attack by the soldiers, stayed locked inside their homes or evacuated the city entirely.

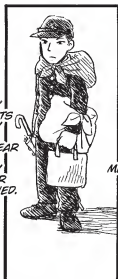








"ANY
SECRETS
THEY
HAD
DISAPPEAR
LIKE
THEY
NEVER
HAPPENED."



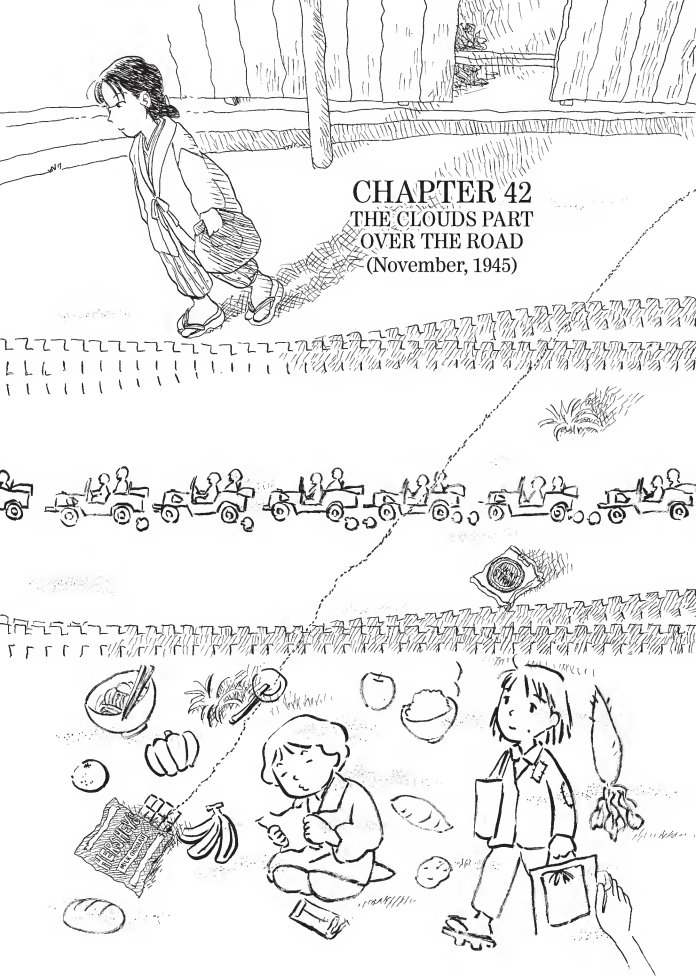
"WHEN
FOLK
DIE,
THEY
TAKE
THEIR
MEMORIES
WITH
THEM."



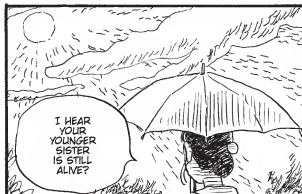
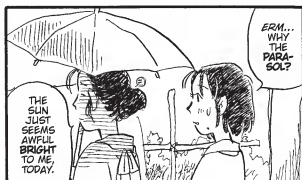
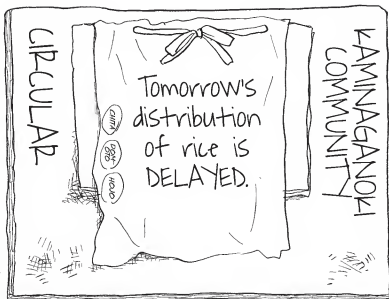
"THAT
SEEMS
LIKE ITS
OWN
KIND OF
LUXURY..."

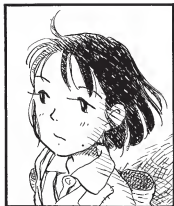
"DOESN'T
IT?"





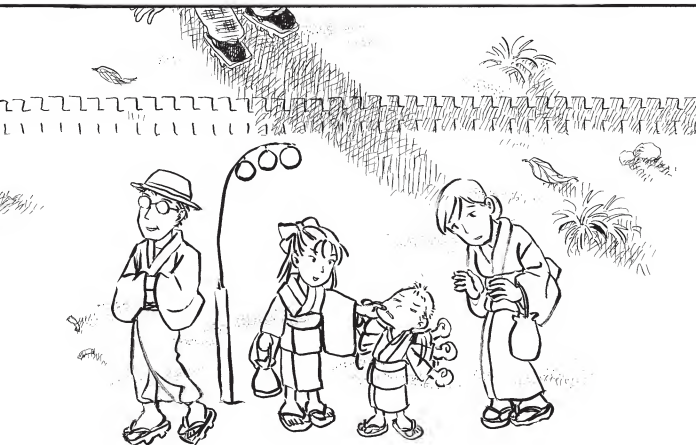
CHAPTER 42
THE CLOUDS PART
OVER THE ROAD
(November, 1945)



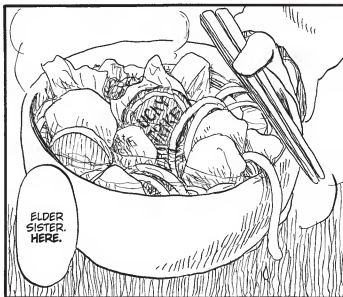
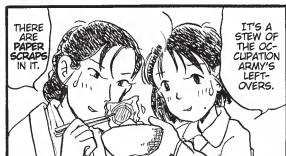
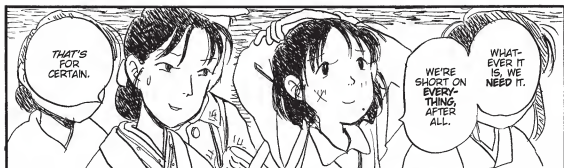


PLEASE
TAKE
CARE.

OH, I'LL
BE FINE.
YOU
MAKE
SURE
YOU
GET
REST.
HEAR?
IF THAT
STUMP
GETS
INFECTED,
THEY'LL
HAVE
TO CUT
EVEN
MORE
OFF.







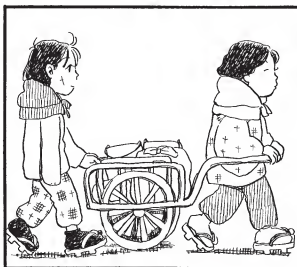
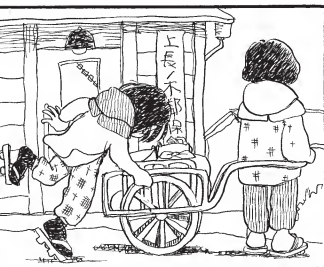
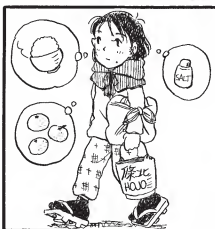
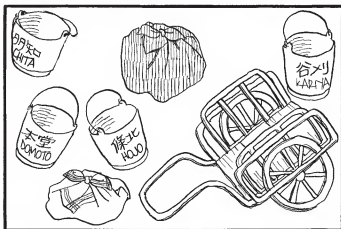
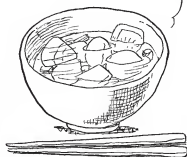




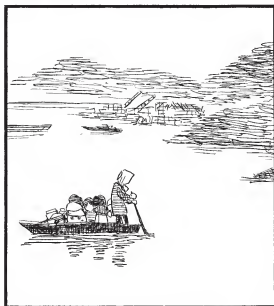
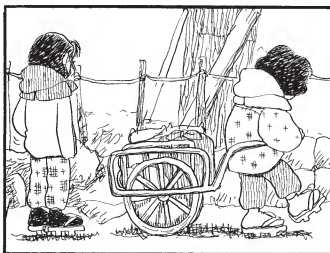
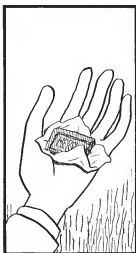
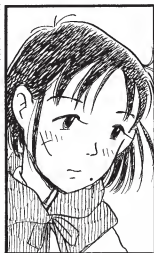
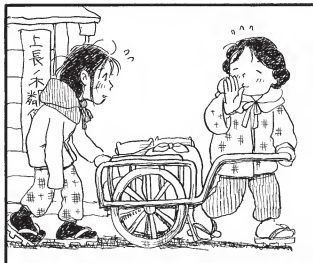
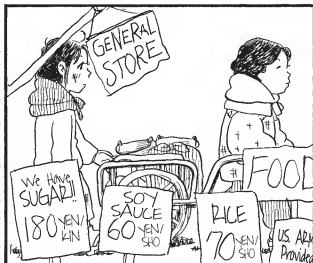
CHAPTER 43

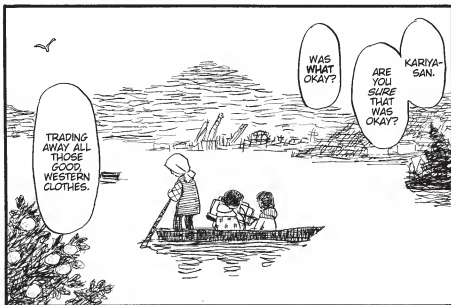
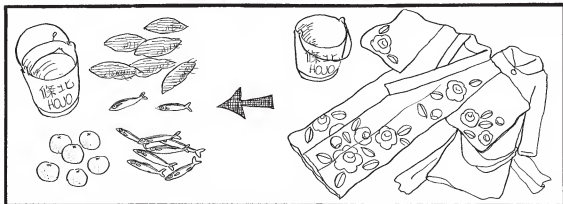
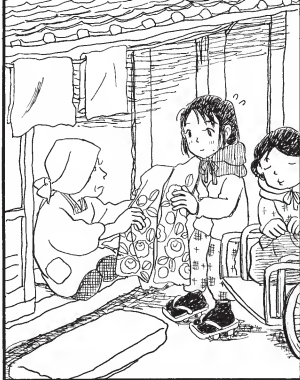
OF HERONS AND NEW LEAVES

(December, 1945)



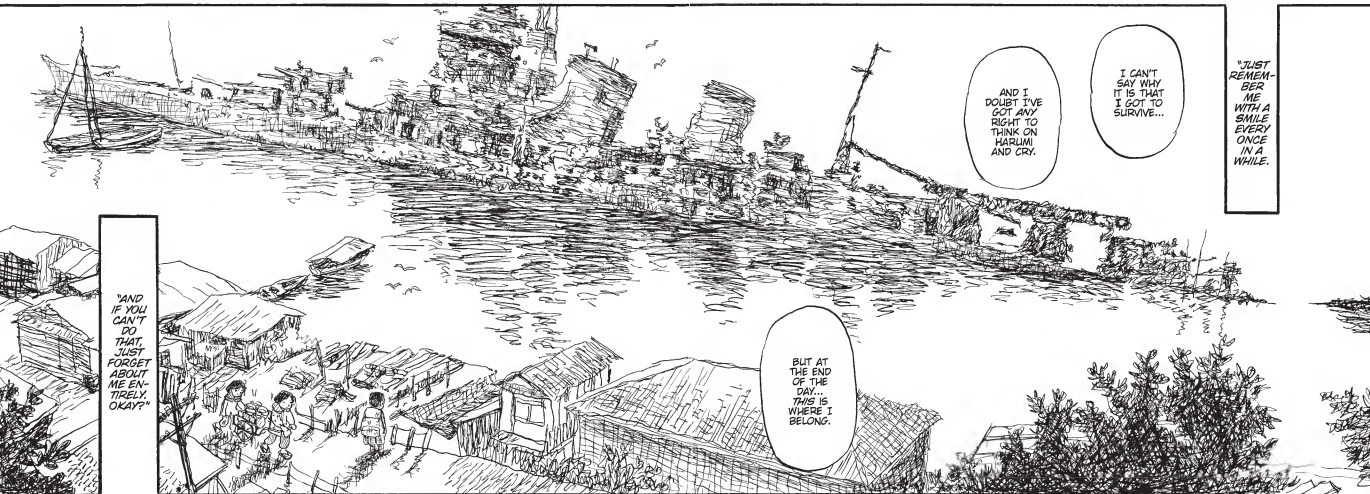
1 sho is about 0.5 gallon/1.89 liters, while 1 ken is about 1.32 pounds/600 grams.

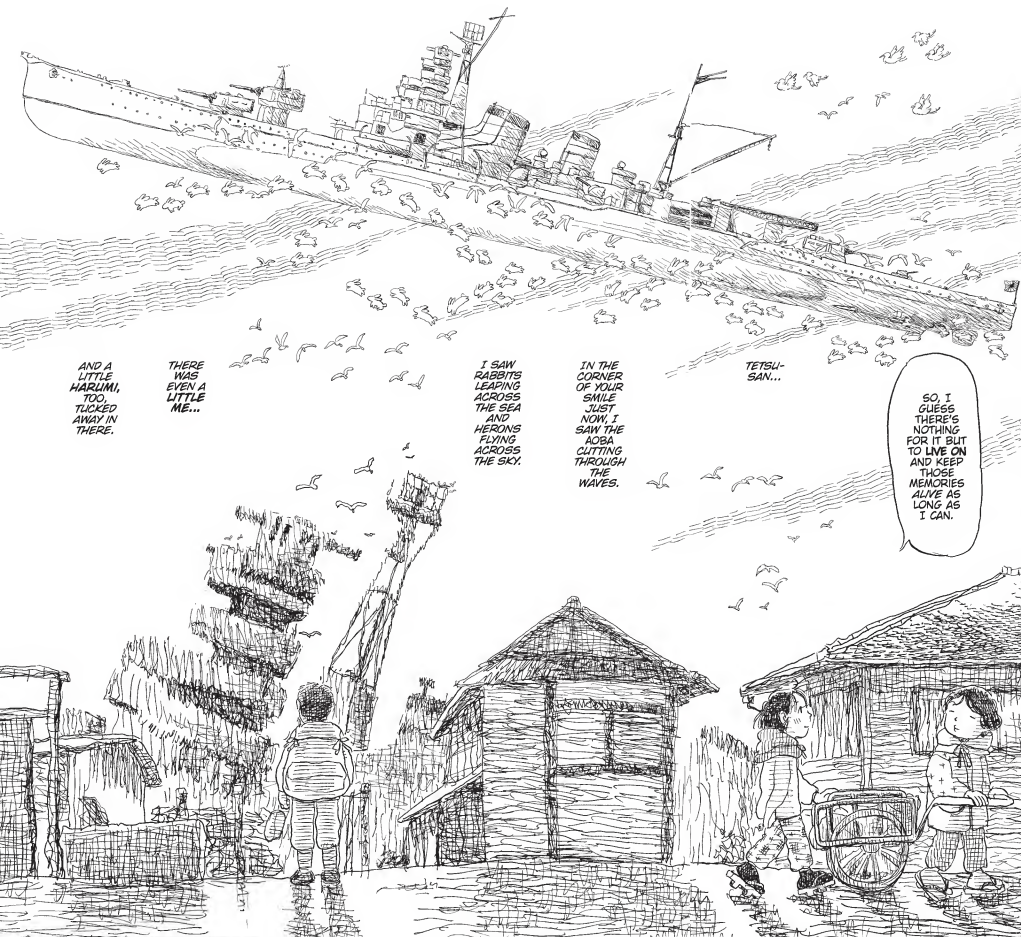






"After being heavily damaged in Japan in the 1940s, the Aoba returned to Kunming, where it was deemed irreparable. Reassigned to our harbor as 'special security,' that July, when it was finally sunk in the harbor shadows."





AND A
LITTLE
HARUMI,
TOO,
TUCKED
AWAY IN
THERE.

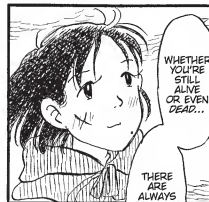
THERE
WAS
EVEN A
LITTLE
ME...

I SAW
RABBITS
LEAPING
ACROSS
THE SEA
AND
HERONS
FLYING
ACROSS
THE SKY.

IN THE
CORNER
OF YOUR
SMILE
JUST
NOW, I
SAW THE
AOBA
CUTTING
THROUGH
THE
WAVES.

TETSU-
SAN...

SO, I
GUESS
THERE'S
NOTHING
FOR IT BUT
TO LIVE ON
AND KEEP
THOSE
MEMORIES
ALIVE AS
LONG AS
I CAN.



WHETHER
YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE
OR EVEN
DEAD...



"I
WANNA
SEE
WHAT
SHIPS
ARE
HERE."

THERE
ARE
ALWAYS
FOLK AND
THINGS
YOU
WON'T
EVER SEE
AGAIN.

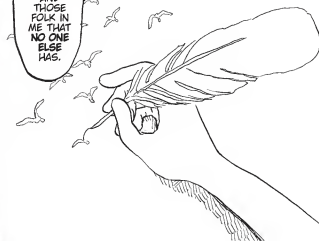
"CAN
WE
LOOK
OVER
THAT
SHAY?"

THE
AOBA,
HARUMI.



IT WAS
THE
AOBA
THAT
WAS
THERE.

NOW,
I'VE GOT
MEMORIES
OF THOSE
THINGS
AND
THOSE
FOLK IN
ME THAT
NO ONE
ELSE
HAS.



In the closing years of the war and for several afterwards, Japan faced not only a severe food shortage but also a shortage of salt and spices. It was so bad people resorted to using seawater to salt their dishes. One newspaper even ran an article that outlined a method for extracting salt from urine...

EVERY-ONE AND EVERY-THING I'VE KNOWN IN THIS WORLD... YOU CAN FIND THEM ALL IN THERE.

SO I'LL REMEMBER HER WHEN I SMILE, TOO.

I THINK I ALWAYS WILL ... FOR YEARS AND YEARS AND YEARS.

IN ALL THE MEMORIES I HAVE OF HER, HARUMI WAS ALWAYS SMILING.

IN THE FLASH OF MY EYE WHEN I SMILE. IN THE BACK OF MY NOSE WHEN I CRY.

IN THE WRINKLE OF MY BROW WHEN I FROWN.

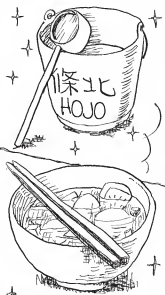
IN THE CURVE OF MY NECK AS I LOOK UP AT THE SKY.

THERE'S NO POINT TO SITTING AROUND CRYING ALL DAY. IT'D BE NOTHING BUT A WASTE...

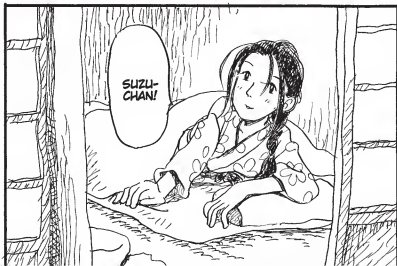
YEP. YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT OF IT.

OF SALT!

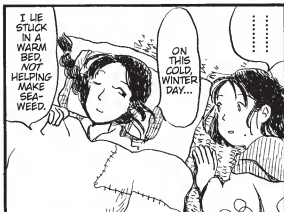
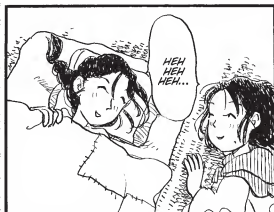
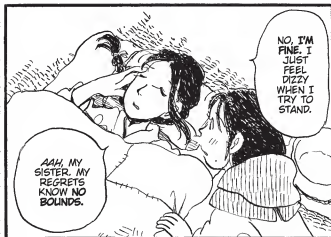
AAAH~! SALT IS SO GOOD!!



CHAPTER 44
THE TOWN WHERE
THEY WAIT
(January, 1946)



Kusatsu, located 4.5 kilometers from the hypocenter in Hiroshima, was almost completely unaffected by the blast. Eba, which was 3.5 kilometers away, had some damage to its buildings, but that was all. Both communities opened their homes and took in victims of the bombing.





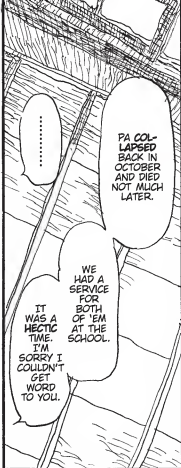
I'M
SORRY I
COULDN'T
GET
HERE
SOONER.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE HAD
TO DO
ALL THAT
WORK
YOURSELF,
SUZU-
CHAN.



NAH, IT'S
BETTER
YOU
WEREN'T
HERE.

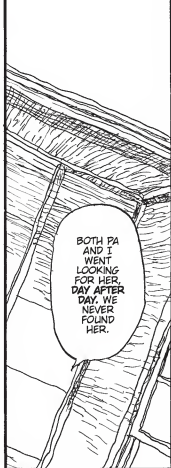
SUZU-
CHAN,
LOOK.



PA COL-
LAPSED
BACK IN
OCTOBER
AND DIED
NOT MUCH
LATER.

WE
HAD A
SERVICE
FOR BOTH
OF 'EM
AT THE
SCHOOL.

IT
WAS A
HECTIC
TIME.
I'M
SORRY I
COULDN'T
GET
WORD
TO YOU.



BOTH PA
AND I
WENT
LOOKING
FOR HER
DAY AFTER
DAY. WE
NEVER
FOUND
HER.



DO YOU
THINK
I'LL GET
BETTER
SOMEDAY?



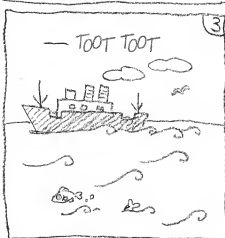
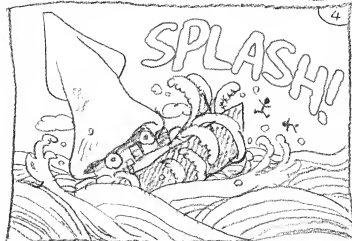
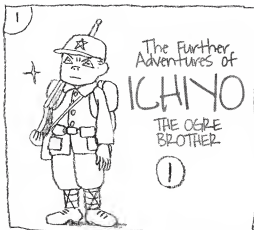
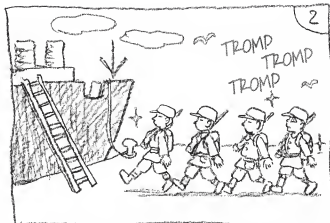
I'VE GOT
THESE
BRUISES
ALL OVER,
NOW.

DO YOU
THINK
THEY'LL
HEAL?

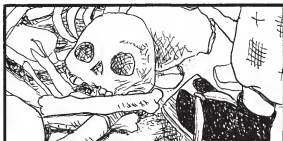
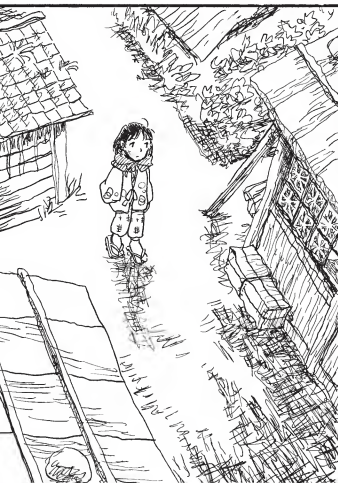
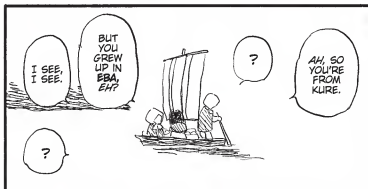
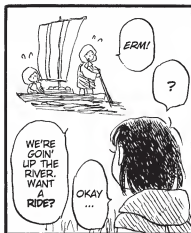


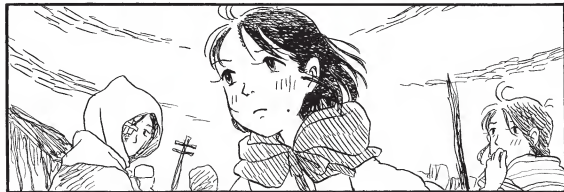
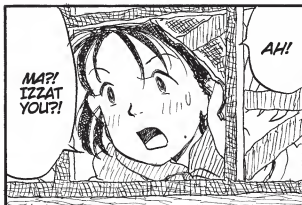
IT JUST
WOULDN'T
BE RIGHT
IF YOU
DIDN'T.

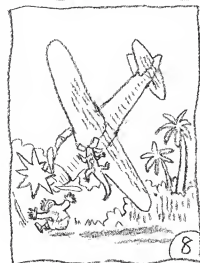
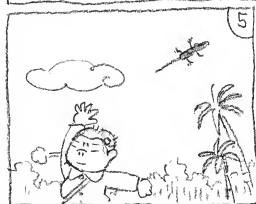
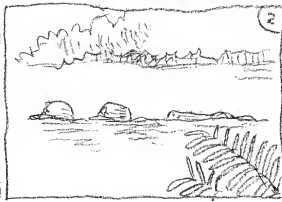
YOU
WILL.



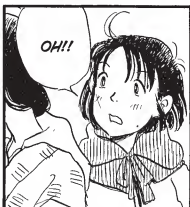
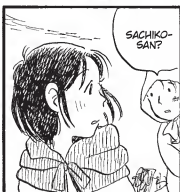
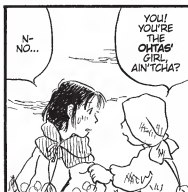
To Be Continued...

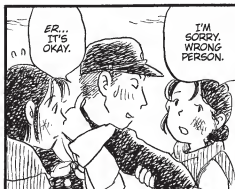
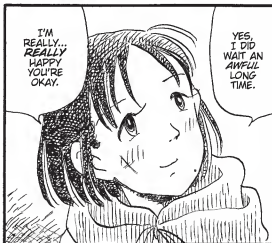
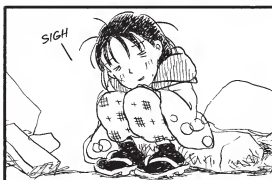


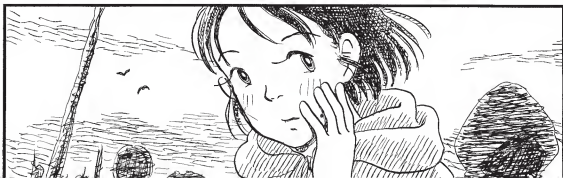
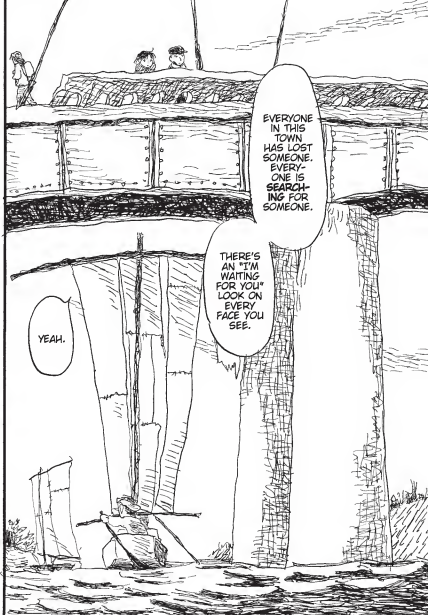


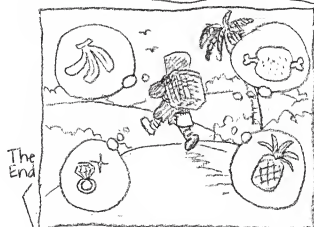
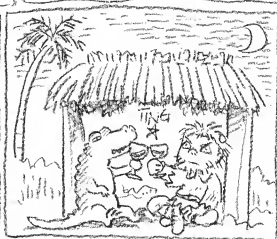
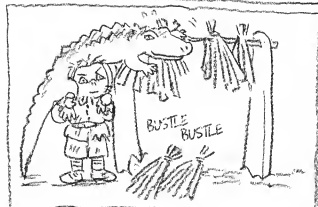


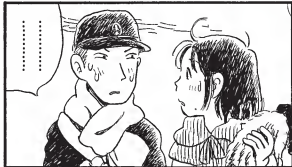
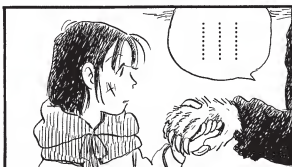
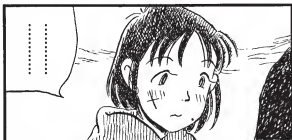
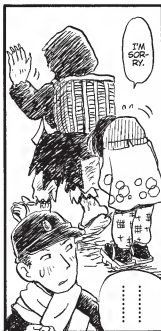
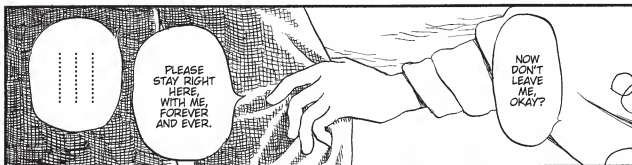
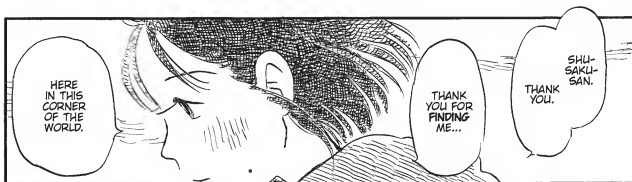
To Be Continued...











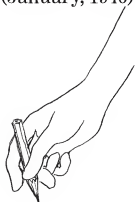
FINAL CHAPTER

A LETTER OF HAPPINESS

(January, 1946)



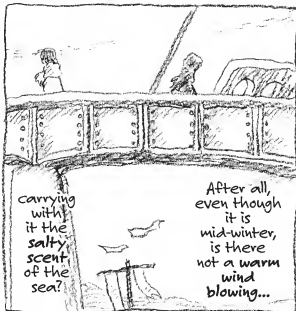
This is
not an
inauspicious
letter
of ill-
fortune.



Please
pardon
the
abruptness.



Shards
of many
a thing
glitter
and
wink at
you from
the
gutter.

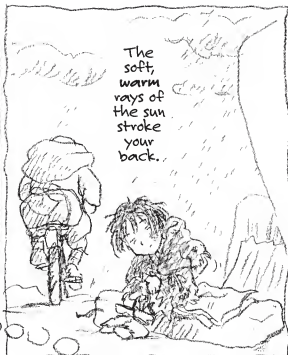


carrying
with
it the
salty
scent
of the
sea?

After all,
even though
it is
mid-winter,
is there
not a warm
wind
blowing...



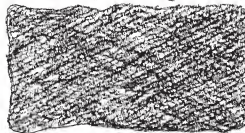
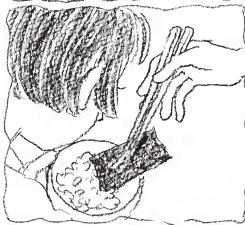
And at night, a
seaweed-colored
darkness
wraps
around
you.



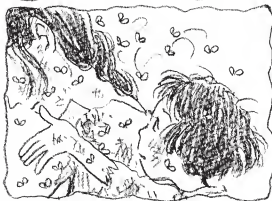
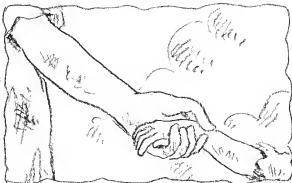
The
soft,
warm
rays of the sun
stroke
your
back.



Righteous-
ness burns
bright,
only to
scatter
like
blossoms
on the
wind...



A love
that
can be
found
within
every-
thing...

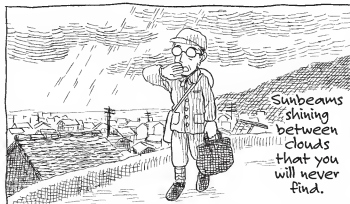




There
will be
twittering
of birds
that you
will never
hear.



Dandelion
fluff
dancing on
the wind
that you
will never
see.



Sunbeams
shining
between
clouds
that you
will never
find.



Dreams
of the
person
lying
next to
you that
you will
never
learn.



I am
afraid
you who
have read
this letter
will die.

Your teeth
will fall
out.

Your
eyes
will go
dim.

Your
ears
will grow
faint.

Yet, all
of that
will be
smiled
upon and
called
"happiness."

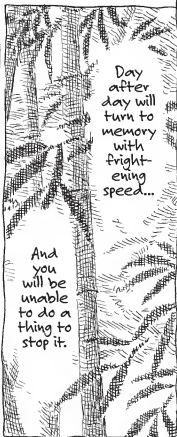
Little
by
little
...

You
will
grow
frail-
er.

Bit
by
bit,
you
will
grow
slow-
er.

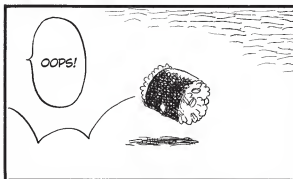
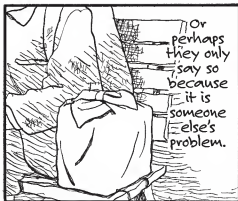


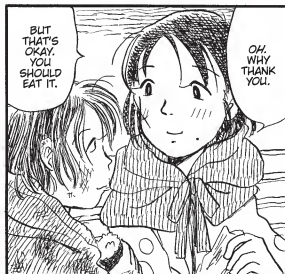
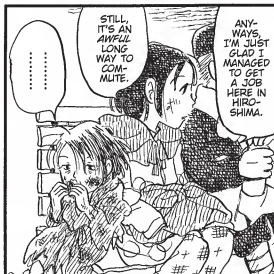
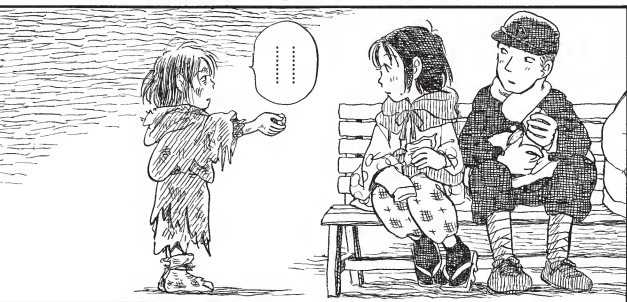
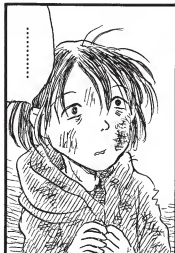
And
roads
leading
from
your
home
that
you
will
never
walk.

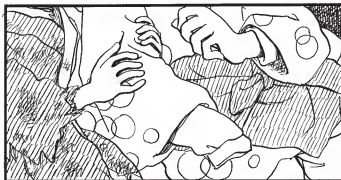
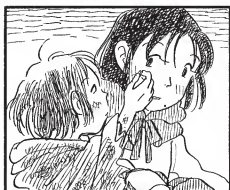


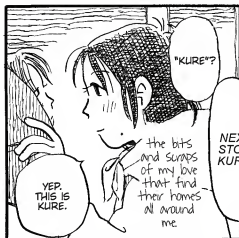
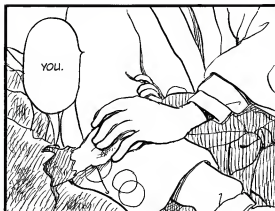
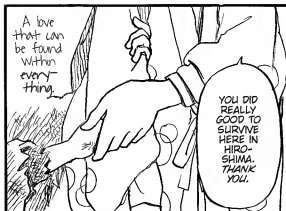
Day
after
day
will
turn to
memory
with
fright-
ening
speed...

And
you
will be
unable
to do a
thing to
stop it.







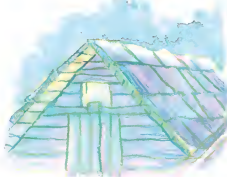


Due to storm and war damage, requisitions by the occupying army, and fuel shortages making vehicles scarce, the train was the only mode of transport for most. It was very crowded at the time.

Slope-roofed barracks were a type of emergency housing proposed by the Navy. Easily built even by people with little construction knowledge, several thousand of them were built and allotted to those in need.



One piece has just found its place in you.





OUR
HOUSE
IS ON
ITS
SLOPE.

THERE IN
THE MIDDLE
IS MT.
HAGAMINE.

HMP AH,
DID SHE
FALL
ASLEEP?

AND
TO THE
LEFT
IS MT.
HACHI-
MAKI.
BEYOND
THAT
ONE IS
HIRO-
SHIMA.

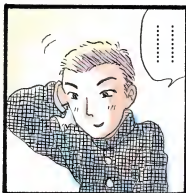
TO THE
FAR
RIGHT
IS MT.
YASUNI.

BEHIND
US IS
THE
SEA.

NINE
MOUN-
TAINS
PROTECT
KURE.
THAT'S
HOW IT
GOT THE
NAME
"KI-REI,"
MEANING
NINE
PEAKS.

LOOK.

DDT or dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, is a typical insecticide. The Allied Armies, seeing how poor hygiene had become for some war victims, would sprinkle it directly on people if asked. However, now that its side effects are known, its use is banned in Japan.



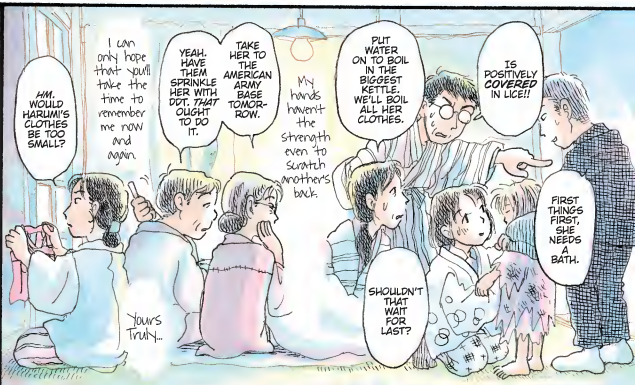
Right now, this is the best I can do.



THIS GIRL...

NOD
NOD

Even should I try my best...



HM. WOULD HARUMI'S CLOTHES BE TOO SMALL?

I can only hope that you'll take the time to remember me now and again.

YEAH. HAVE THEM SPRINKLE HER WITH DDT. THAT OUGHT TO DO IT.

TAKE HER TO THE AMERICAN ARMY BASE TOMORROW.

My hands haven't the strength even to scratch another's back.

PUT WATER ON TO BOIL IN THE BIGGEST KETTLE. WE'LL BOIL ALL HER CLOTHES.

IS POSITIVELY COVERED IN LICE!!

FIRST THINGS FIRST, SHE NEEDS A BATH.

SHOULDN'T THAT WAIT FOR LAST?

Yours Truly...

In this
Corner
of the World
[END]

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Additional Notes

During the serialization of this series, it came to my attention that the first air raid warning in Kure was actually sounded in June of 1944, not July (see note on page 138 of Volume 1).

Also, though Shimomaganoki People's School was fabricated for the sake of the story, it was modeled after the real-life Tatsukawa People's School (which would later become Tatsukawa Elementary School).

The Generous People Who Assisted Me

- Mr. Yoshiaki Saito, from the Iritaneya Memorial Museum, who kindly and patiently answered my odd and ignorant questions.
- Mr. Kazuhiko Nakagawa, my grandmother's cousin, who told me what it was like to be a clerk for the Imperial Japanese Navy's Courts Martial.
- Mrs. Junko Okazaki, my aunt, who spoke to me of her memories of living in Kure.
- Dr. Tatsuo Kubota and Toshihisa Kido, who directed me to many useful references.
- Mrs. Nagomi Aoyama, who guided me up a snowy Mt. Hagamine.
- Mr. Kiyokazu Watanabe and Mrs. Rei Tensei for teaching me a Kyushu accent.
- Fatabasha's Makoto Someya, who was patient with me even when I missed my deadlines. (I'm so sorry!)

About Kure

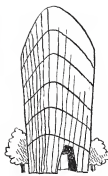
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The Shimadachi Museum



National Diet Library



National Showa Memorial Museum



Japan Spinning Top Museum



Hiroshima City Central Library



Navy Cemetery



Funairiyama Museum



Kure Maritime Museum



Hiroshima City Museum of History and Traditional Crafts



Historical Materials Hall for the Wounded and Sick Retired Soldiers

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AFTERWORD

A pollen-filled morning, February, 2009

I have not experienced dying yet, so I can't say if it is the greatest unhappiness that can befall a person. I have also never been anyone but myself, so it is hard to strictly say I fully understand the nobility and magnificence of all life. Perhaps because of that, sometimes I feel like I have a difficult time understanding "war pieces" that insist on measuring the weight of tragedy through the "death" of "everyone." Usually, the first thing I will then try to do is learn about the "individuals" who must have been there, and the joys and sadness in each of their lives.

Both now and back then, Kure has been a marvel of a city, with both a bravery and grace to it. On a more personal level, it is my mother's home town. What did the people connected to me wish for and what did they lose? Twenty three years passed between the end of the war and the time I came into their lives and, as many of them have since passed away, there is no way for me to know for certain now. Thus this work is, in the end, little more than my interpretation. I simply took the "memories" of the cheerful and quiet "lives" they must have led as a cornerstone, and began to draw.

To be honest, I didn't think I would ever finish it.

All the guiding souls I have met. The little place for a story about the years 1943 to 1946 in a manga anthology published in 2006 to 2009. The everyday peace of being able to draw with my dominant hand. And that you are here, reading this sentence right now.

I believe all of these are miracles.

Thank you.

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史
代

Fumiyo
Kouno



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story and art by FUMIYO KOUNO

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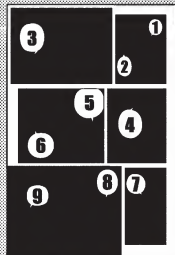
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





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1940's Hiroshima Prefecture. Suzu, a young woman from the countryside, joins her new husband and his family in the shipbuilding city of Kure. As her beautiful home collapses around her, Suzu must confront the challenges of a new life while coming to grips with a world in turmoil. Unwilling to give up hope, Suzu struggles against the horrors of war to create her own happiness.

[Volume 3 of 3]